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# central VOICE

FREE

MARCH | APRIL 2017

# Intersections: ***Do Gays Need Guns?***

*By Frank Pizzoli & Christopher Thomas*

Of the more-than 33,000 gun-related deaths per year in the US, on average, 33% is the proportion made up of LGBTQ+ individuals - though US Census data estimates the gay community makes up about 3 to 5% of the overall, national population.

For perspective, last year the nation's opioid epidemic killed 33,091 people – that's one overdose death every 15 minutes.

Hate crimes based on sexual orientation accounted for 18.6% of the overall total in 2015, according to the FBI. Combined with hate crimes based on gender identity, that accounts for one-fifth of all reported hate crimes.

These are the facts - but consensus on how to respond is hard to find.

**Close to home**

High volumes of publicized shootings over the past two years have injected new energy in the gun control debate. None, perhaps, as starkly as the Pulse Nightclub shooting in Miami on June 12, 2016.

Fifty people, including the shooter, lost their lives in the incident. Most of the victims were young Latino men in their 20s and 30s. They represented America's and the community's diversity. One was a Starbucks barista, a UPS man and a gay cruise promoter. One was a telemarketer, another a pharmacy tech. One worked at Universal's Wizarding World of Harry Potter.

The youngest victim was celebrating her high school graduation. It was the worst mass shooting in national history.

The Pulse shooting also highlighted a recent uptick of violence targeting the LGBTQ+ community.

Reported LGBT homicides rose by 20% in the US between 2014 and 2015, according to a recent study by

*Roethlein (in pink hat) and participants of Gays Against Guns at January's Women's March.*

**• 33,000 gun-related deaths per year**
**• 33% are LGBTQ+ individuals**

*- US Census data*

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs. Of the homicides reported last year, 62% were LGBT people of color and 54% of all hate-violence related to LGBT homicides were transgender women of color.

Transgender women face epidemic rates of murder and violent crime. Hate crimes are on the rise throughout the US, with 20% of hate crimes reported nationally targeting people based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

According to UCLA's Williams Institute, gay men report being victims of violent hate crimes at higher rates than any other targeted group, and these crimes are more violent and result in hospitalization more often.

"Of course the LGBT community has a stake in gun issues," says Terry Roethlein, Gays Against Guns

*Continued on page 22*

***Terry Roethlein, Gays Against Guns (GAG) Media Co-Chair, calls for ending "the chain of death" created by guns. "Guns are easier to get than a driver's license."***

***Self defense is a high priority for Pink Pistols, a militant LGBTQ gun group. "I don't want to fight back with a kitchen knife," says member Jonathan Fischer.***

# Mural Artist Looking to Engage

*By Central Voice*

After traveling the country for several years, Lebanon-born Katie Trainer, 27, decided to return to home ground. She' an artist, a mural painter who didn't go to art school.

"I come back to invest my energy into my art and writing and also into the local communities in Lebanon, Reading, Lancaster and Harrisburg," Trainer tells *Central Voice.*

"I didn't go to art school. *Think and Grow Rich*, a book by Napoleon Hill, is the greatest inspiration for everything I am pursuing now," she says. Written in 1937 personal development book, Hill said he was inspired by a suggestion from philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. The book's main concept, and what has inspired Trainer is "whatever the mind can conceive and believe, it can achieve."

"I actually studied art my whole entire life, from recycled sculpture courses to painting, but while on the road I considered myself to be on a sort of spiritual odyssey," Trainer explains. She was "guided across the country by texts, books, spiritual and entrepreneur mentors and alternative education". Last year, she found herself involved in an intensive Qigong energetic study while developing eco-village and sustainability technologies.

Trainer's across-the-country experiences has helped her design several projects. One is called Science Meets Art. Another is Inspirational Travel Art which incorporates quotes from her

*Continued on page 13*

INSIDE ▸ WOMEN'S MARCH: Inspiration & Controversy pgs 6, 20, 21, 23 ▸ ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT pgs 12-17

*In Loving Memory Of*

# STEVE KOZOKAS

Early in Steve Kozokas' tenure with *Central Voice*, during his first meeting with a potential advertiser, one person at the table said: You smile a lot.

CORRECTION
ADD SERVICE INFO?

vent so many places in the nine years
*GBT Guide*, and our *Pride Guides*.
s DJ.
face anymore.

Steve passed away unexpectedly February 7, 2017 at PinnacleHealth Harrisburg Hospital.

Steve leaves behind his partner, Kevin Gross, of Harrisburg, PA; daughter, Devynn Kozokas, of Barto, PA; mother, Irene Yurchalk Kozokas, of Friendsville, PA; sister and brother-in-law, Carol and Mickey Saravitz, of Friendsville, PA and several aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

A MEMORIAL SERVICE HONORING STEVE IS BEING ORGANIZED.

# Political Updates

## INTERNATIONAL

### • Model Odiele Reveals She is Intersex

In an effort to be true to herself and spotlight an often invisible human rights issue, internationally acclaimed Belgian fashion model Hanne Gaby Odiele, 29, announced she is intersex and will advocate for intersex bodily autonomy alongside the non-profit organization, inter-ACT Advocates for Intersex Youth. After years of keeping her intersex status undisclosed, Odiele has chosen to reveal who she is to empower herself, give voice to other intersex people, and help end the human rights violations thousands of intersex people like her have endured. "I have reached a point in my life where I feel ready to share this important part of who I am," Odiele said. "It is time for intersex people to come out of the shadows, claim our status, let go of shame, and speak out against the unnecessary and harmful surgeries many of us were subjected to as children. Intersex children born today are still at risk for these human rights violations. I will use my voice and platform to help end such abuses."

### • Kurdish advocacy group paints murals

The Rasan Organization, a Kurdish advocacy group, painted murals on the walls of three high schools in Sulaymaniyah, a city in the semi-autonomous Kurdish region of northern Iraq. Staffers and volunteers of the Sulaymaniyah-based organization painted the murals with the help of a local artist. One of the murals contains images of three rainbow-colored couples — two who are gay and lesbian and one who is straight — above a slogan that reads, "love is love." Another mural simply reads, "equality" in English and Kurdish. The campaign also sought to highlight domestic violence in the region. One mural contains an image of a woman with a black eye holding her hand in the air. The Rasan Organization also placed electronic billboards throughout Sulaymaniyah that highlighted domestic violence, child marriage and discrimination against women in the workplace.

MARRIAGE UPDATES:

### • Gibraltar

Gibraltar saw a local gay couple make history when they were declared husband and husband in Gibraltar's first same sex marriage. Aaron Mills and Adrian Charles Triay-Dignam have been together four and a half years and became Mr and Mr Dignam-Mills at 2pm in front of family and friends and the Chief Minister Fabian Picardo and his wife Justine. Gibraltar is a British Overseas Territory with 30,000 population located near the bottom of Spain.

### • Guernsey

The Queen's Privy Council at Buckingham Palace signed off on Guernsey's legalization of same-sex marriage, which passed the island's legislature (called the States) 33-5 in September. The British Crown dependency in the English Channel has around 63,000 residents. Weddings are expected to begin in a few months.

### • Mexico City

Mexico City, which is like the District of Columbia, is writing its first-ever local constitution, to take effect next year. Marriage equality has been legal in Mexico City since 2010. Mexico's most-professionalized LGBT-rights group, MOViiMX, sent out an action alert Friday saying: "There's a real risk that marriage equality will not be elevated to the constitutional level in Mexico City. We are in a critical communication and lobbying moment." At present, there is full marriage equality in 10 of Mexico's 31 states, in addition to Mexico City. Activists continue with a court process that should lead to marriage equality, state by state, in the remaining 21.

### • Taiwan moves closer

A supporter of same-sex marriage holds a rainbow flag outside the Parliament in Taipei. Taiwan's parliament has passed the first draft of a controversial marriage equality bill, moving the island a step closer to becoming the first place in Asia to legalize same-sex nuptials. A legislative committee approved the amendment to the civil law that would allow gay couples to legally tie the knot, as dozens of opponents to the change rallied outside to demand a referendum on the divisive issue.

## NATIONAL

### • Texas still Lone Star state?

LGBT advocates fear that Texas lawmakers are lining up a raft of potential legislation to introduce in 2017. In 2015, Texas introduced over 20 pieces of legislation detrimental to LGBT equality, all of which failed. One bill being prepared for 2017 is Senate Bill 6 – an anti-trans bathroom bill believed to be very similar to the controversial HB 2 in North Carolina. The Texas Association of Business published an analysis warning that the introduction of such a bill, and others that allow discrimination against LGBT people, could cost the state $8.5 billion in lost business and the potential loss of 185,000 jobs. That analysis has been criticized by Republicans backing the bill.

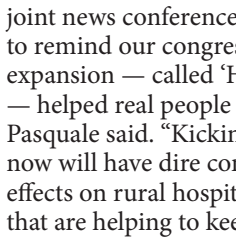
### • Anti-Trans Activists File Ballot Initiative

Just Want Privacy, the group of anti-trans activists who tried and failed to repeal Washington state human rights protections for trans people in 2016, is trying the same tactic again at the outset of the new year. The group has filed a proposed ballot initiative that not only repeals state human rights protections for trans people in bathrooms, but also requires public schools to maintain segregated bathrooms based on genitalia. HB 1011 has been referred to the state House's judiciary committee. The chair of that committee, Rep. Laurie Jinkins (D-Tacoma) blocked four pieces similar pieces of anti-trans bathroom legislation, and this year she'd pledged to do the same. "[If] it comes to my committee, I'm not hearing the bill," Jinkins told the Capitol Hill Times. "I'm not interested in hearing bills that overturn our state's anti-discrimination law."

### • TLDEF Names Broadus Senior Counsel

Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund announces the appointment of Kylar W. Broadus to the position of Senior Counsel within TLDEF's growing impact litigation program. Broadus is a nationally renowned attorney, activist, public speaker and former professor who is universally admired by advocates across the LGBT rights movement. He has spent decades fighting for the rights and dignity of the most vulnerable in our communities and shown immense resilience overcoming the bias he has faced as a Black transgender man who was once fired for living openly.

### • General Mattis won't roll back open service



General James Mattis stated commitment during his Senate confirmation testimony that he would not reverse open service by LGBT individuals. During his prepared testimony, General Mattis said, "We open the door to all patriots who are eligible and meet the standards, provide them with the training, equipment, and leadership that's central to their success, and ensure all service members are treated with dignity and respect." When asked by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) about his support for LGBT service members currently serving our nation, General Mattis said, "Senator, my belief is that we have to stay focused on a military that's so lethal that on the battlefield it will be the enemies' longest day and their worst day when they run into that force. I believe that military service is a touchstone for patriots of whatever stripe. It's simply the way that they demonstrate their commitment. He went on to say, "Frankly, I've never cared much about two consenting adults and who they go to bed with."

### • PA Impact if Medicaid expansion eliminated

Auditor General Eugene DePasquale and Treasurer Joe Torsella have warned Congress that eliminating the Medicaid expansion provision in the Affordable Care Act could jeopardize health care for more than 675,000 Pennsylvanians and push the state's structural budget deficit even higher. "There will be devastating consequences for hundreds of thousands of mostly rural, working poor, Pennsylvanians if Congress eliminates the Medicaid expansion provision of the Affordable Care Act," DePasquale said during a joint news conference with Treasurer Torsella. "We want to remind our congressional delegation that Medicaid expansion — called 'HealthChoices' in the keystone state — helped real people and families receive health care," DePasquale said. "Kicking them out of the health care system now will have dire consequences on their health and ripple effects on rural hospitals that stand to lose federal funds that are helping to keep their doors open."

### • State Rep. Kim seeks minimum wage boost

State Rep. Patty Kim, D-Dauphin, unveiled her updated minimum wage bill which involves phasing in increases for small businesses."In the budget negotiations, minimum wage should be a top priority," Kim said. "Opponents will say we can't afford to increase the minimum wage, but I must maintain, as we begin the 2017 legislative session, that this is something we simply cannot afford not to do." Kim's proposal includes seven scheduled increases, beginning with $12 per hour effective July 1, with additional 50 cent incremental increases yearly to $15 per hour by 2023.

### • PA lawmakers form Climate Caucus

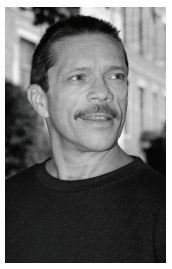
Citing the very real threat posed by climate change, PA State Rep. Steve McCarter, D-Montgomery, and other legislators and advocacy groups have formed a Climate Caucus. "With a new administration at the federal level, it's now more important than ever for legislators to collaborate and share information and ideas concerning climate change and how its impact will affect Pennsylvania," McCarter said. "The Climate Caucus aims to provide a forum for discussion and to increase information so we as legislators can ensure we're making informed decisions in the best interest of the environment and the people of Pennsylvania." McCarter was joined by state Reps. Mary Jo Daley, D-Montgomery; Leanne Krueger-Braneky, D-Delaware; Bob Freeman, D-

*Continued on page 6*

*Some people come into our lives and leave footprints on our hearts and we are never ever the same.*

*-Flavia Weedn*

# A guy we'll all miss…



*Frank Pizzoli*

*"Smile and the world smiles with you, cry and you cry alone."*

The first part of Stanley Gordon West's famous saying could easily describe Steve Kozokas. He served as our Advertising Representative for nine years, diligently selling advertising for *Central Voice, LGBT Guide*, and our three *Pride Guides*.

Sadly, Steve passed away Feb. 7 at Pinnacle Health System.

For nearly a decade we saw him at one, then we had two, and finally three local Pride and Equality events. He greeted readers, advertisers, and attendees, handing them our latest issue, collecting business cards, and happily adding to the frolic of the day.

This round we'll all miss him throughout the Summer Pride events. He faithfully attended networking events hosted by the Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, having sidebar chats about the publication.

His many friends at Hillside Campgrounds where was resident DJ throughout the summer season will miss his crafty dance club mixes as they enjoyed themselves in the embrace of the mountains, away from all that might bother – or reject – them. Steve was part of their comfort and fun.

We'll all miss him. He joins Dame Glenda and Miss Biscuit in the Big Disco in the Sky. Keep us safe from harm guys!

*You are invited to a celebration of Steve's life to be held March 9 from 4-6 pm at the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association, 3899 N. Front St., Harrisburg*

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Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

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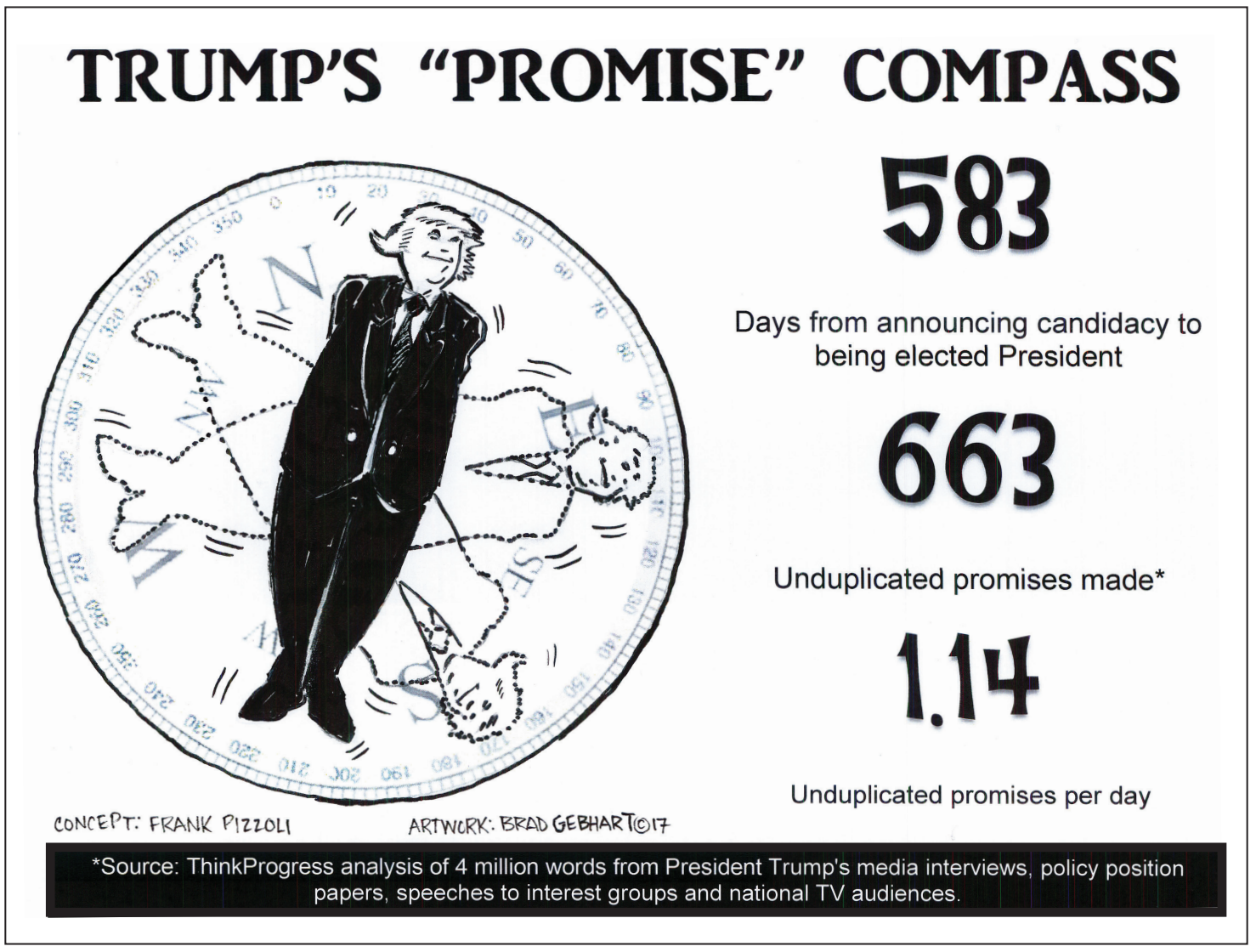

TRUMP'S "PROMISE" COMPASS
583
Days from announcing candidacy to being elected President
663
Unduplicated promises made*
1.14
Unduplicated promises per day
CONCEPT: FRANK PIZZOLI
ARTWORK: BRAD GEBHART©17
*Source: ThinkProgress analysis of 4 million words from President Trump's media interviews, policy position papers, speeches to interest groups and national TV audiences.



community voice

*John Traynor, owner of Harrisburg Midtown Arts Center, testified Jan. 30 before the House Democratic Policy Committee hearing in favor of gradually raising Pennsylvania's minimum wage. He is a member of business for a Fair Minimum Wage, a national network of business owners who believe a fair minimum wage makes good business sense.*

# State Representative Kim Holds Hearing on Raising Pennsylvania Minimum Wage

State Rep. Patty Kim, D-Dauphin, hosted a House Democratic Policy Committee hearing on raising the minimum wage on Jan. 30.

Committee Chairman Mike Sturla, D-Lancaster, co-chaired the hearing at the YWCA, which discussed the effects of increasing the minimum wage.

"Pennsylvania is long overdue for an increase in the minimum wage," Kim said. "It's been eight years since the floor was raised to $7.25 in Pennsylvania. In 2016, the inflation-adjusted minimum wage was about one-third below its 1968 level – even though productivity has doubled since 1968."

"When we talk about a minimum wage, we should be talking about a livable wage," Sturla said. "Pennsylvanians who work 40 hours a week should not be living in poverty. I support raising the minimum wage, and I'm glad the Policy Committee can bring more attention to the issue."

Currently, someone earning minimum wage who works 40 hours per week only earns $15,080, some $4,700 below the poverty line, requiring many people to rely on government assistance programs to get by.

Testifiers were Sean Ramaley, deputy secretary at the state Department of Labor and Industry; John Traynor, owner of Harrisburg Midtown Arts Center and the Kitchen Bar; Mary Quinn, president and CEO of the YWCA Harrisburg; and Mark Price, Ph.D., a labor economist from the Keystone Research Center.

For hearing testimonies, go to www.pahouse.com/policycommittee.

# Sims, Kenney Call for No 'conversion therapy' in PA

State Rep. Brian Sims, D-Phila., Mayor Jim Kenney and other elected officials have called for passage of statewide legislation to protect minors from anti-LGBT "conversion therapy." Sims and state Sen. Anthony Hardy Williams, D-Phila./Delaware, are the lead sponsors of the legislation in the House and Senate.

"In a time of extreme divisiveness, elected officials should seize every opportunity to find areas of common ground. Together, the legislature disagrees on many issues, including those considered LGBT-specific. Today we have a chance to heed the advice of dozens of professional medical associations, and ban a practice that inflicts innocent children with pain and fear. To those still peddling this barbarism as medicine, you cannot fix what is not broken and we will not rest until you are driven from this Commonwealth," said Sims, the state's first out LGBT legislator.

State Rep. Jordan Harris, D-Phila., chairman of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus, said, "As adults, we have a duty to protect children, ALL children! We should not endorse or promote, through our silence or our advocacy, any practice that has been proven to be destructive to the developing spirit of a child. This legislation would give our kids the protection that young people already have in California, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Oregon, Vermont and next door in New Jersey."

The elected officials were joined by representatives of the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Society.

"The American Psychiatric Association and the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Society have always taken clear stands against discrimination, prejudice, and unethical treatment on a variety of issues, including discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Therefore, APA and PaPS strongly oppose 'reparative' or 'conversion' therapy," said Deborah Shoemaker, the society's executive director.

*State Rep. Brian Sims, D-Phila., Mayor Jim Kenney and other elected officials called for passage of statewide legislation to protect minors from anti-LGBT "conversion therapy."*

# Commissioners for PA Human Relations Commission Confirmed

The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission has confirmed three new commissioners: Michael D. Hardiman, Downingtown; Curtis Jones, Jr., Philadelphia; and Mayur Patel, Harrisburg.

Hardiman currently serves as counsel to the Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity (PLSE), a non-profit corporation working in the community to reduce negative collateral consequences for those who have interacted with the Pennsylvania Criminal Justice System. Prior to PLSE, Hardiman worked at the PHRC as an attorney since 1979 and served as Chief Counsel from 2005 to 2012.

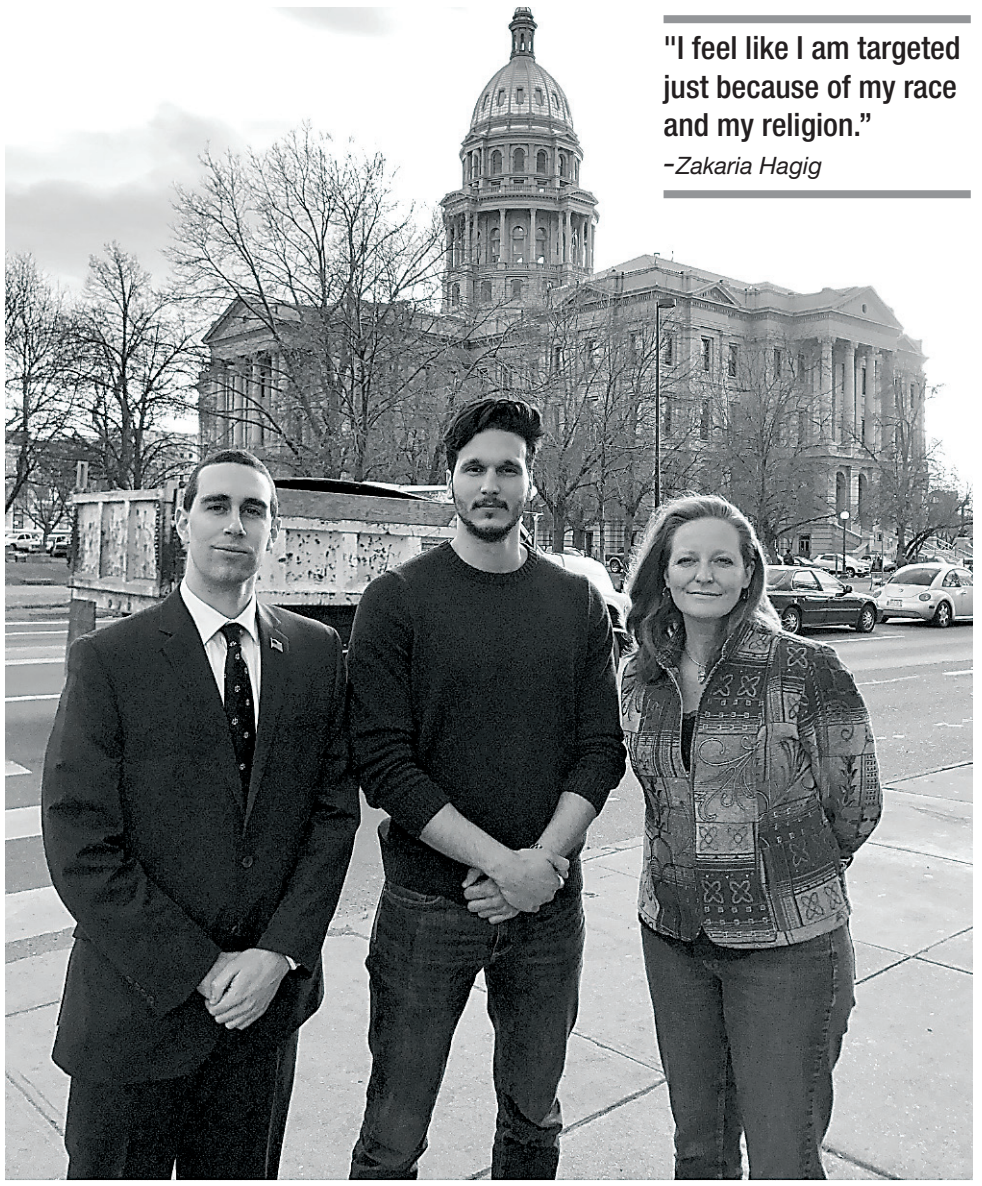
Curtis Jones, Jr. has served as a Philadelphia City Councilman for three terms. He is the co-founder of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware and also serves presently on the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

Mayur Patel is co-owner and principal of Laughner Patel Developers, a Harrisburg firm that provides professional real estate development and project management services. Patel also is a Board member of the Capital Region Economic Development Corporation.

Hardiman, Jones and Patel join seven other commissioners on the PHRC. The Commission meets monthly to promote equal opportunity and uphold the state civil rights of Pennsylvanians.

***SAFETY IN NUMBERS?*** *Garden State Equality assembled elected officials and representatives from the LGBT community recently to discuss, according to Christian Fuscarino, "important issues for the LGBT community, but we spoke about ways of mobilizing our folks to stand against injustice in any form. The only way any of us will stay safe and protected over the next four years is if we stand together." Second bottom left US Sen. Bob Casey (PA), US Sen. Cory Booker (NJ), center at head of table John Keating, next is Christian Fuscarino, center right side table is PA Rep. Brian Sims, and Malcolm Kenyatta, standing, far right.*

*Photo by Bill Moen*



"I feel like I am targeted just because of my race and my religion."
-*Zakaria Hagig*

*Alan Kennedy-Shaffer, Zakaria Hagig, Former Colorado Senate President Morgan Carroll.*

# Former Local Attorney Co-handles Trump Immigration Suit

*By Central Voice*

Denver college student Zakaria Hagig, 24, a Muslim from Libya, is fighting back against President Donald Trump's travel ban for immigrants and refugees.

Libya is one of seven Muslim-majority countries linked to concerns about terrorism.

On Jan. 31, Hagig filed a civil rights lawsuit against Trump and others, including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S Customs and Border Protection on Tuesday morning. Attorneys Alan Kennedy-Shaffer and Morgan Carroll are representing Hagig pro bono.

Kennedy-Shaffer, founder of Harrisburg Hope, has written for *Central Voice* about his work with that organization and on other topics.

"When I first got here, I felt like I am equal, just like everybody else, no matter what skin color, no matter what religion you practice. That's the unique thing about the United States, the diversity," Hagig told FOX 31 Denver.

When Trump issued his executive order, things changed for Hagig.

"After the executive order he signed, I feel like I am targeted just because of my race and my religion," Hagig said.

Her noted Trump said upon signing the controversial order, now the subject of at least 15 suits at various court levels, he wanted "To keep radical Islamic terrorists out of the United States of America. We don't want them here."

"I have nothing to do with that. I am here to study. I am here a full-time student," Hagig told FOX 31.

"He was very nervous filing a lawsuit against the president of the United States," Kennedy-Shaffer said.

# What can *you* do?

*By Frank Pizzoli, Central Voice*

No one knows if the resistance to President Donald Trump's domestic and foreign policies will coalesce into a movement.

Meanwhile, here's what active individuals are doing in response:

**Civil Rights – AIDS History**

Twice today, people stopped me to ask, "What can I do?" It's a question that keeps coming up, but one for which I don't yet have a ready answer, particularly for those of in solidly blue areas who don't have Republican legislators representing us.

One of things I have said is, "Read about the strategies of the civil rights movement, and watch the film *How To Survive A Plague.*

**Postcard writing parties**

I have organized postcard writing parties and have encouraged others to do the same. One issue per postcard. A postcard on each issue goes to Dear Leader, to Paul Ryan's HOME address, to the nearest GOP Congressperson/s. My goal is to have thousands of postcards on issues delivered daily from around the country....a girl can dream!

**Study anti-colonial movements**

I have been studying anti-colonial movements in Africa. Watch the film Battle for Algiers. Not for its violence but for how to get under the oppressors skin. Telesur is an amazing and inspirational source of news and stories on indigenous people's ways of fighting back against government and drug cartels. I never thought the day would come that Jomo Kenyatta would be guiding me.

**Be active**

I'm making calls, sending e-mails, and continuing to collect and share LGBT and ally stories, because now, more than ever, we need to keep that momentum going. Find or start local groups that can do simple things like show up at your local member of Congress's office to make demands. Watch Eyes on the Prize (all episodes) on YouTube. Great organizing ideas.

**Indivisible Guide**

I recommend downloading this guide and seeing if there's anything in there for you. In the meantime, I'm finding small-group gatherings of like-minded people to talk specifically about our ideas and fears to be very helpful. https://www.indivisibleguide.com/

**Read**

I read "It Can't Happen Here" by Sinclair Lewis and a while ago "The Plot Against America" by Philip Roth. Both are terrifying and instructive.

# Political Updates cont'd from pg 3

Northampton; Donna Bullock, D-Phila.; Chris Rabb, D-Phila.; Greg Vitali, D-Delaware; Carolyn Comitta, D-Chester; and Mike Sturla, D-Lancaster.

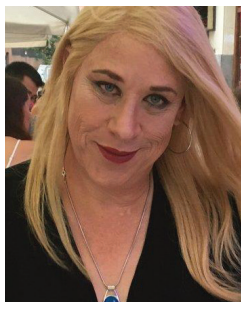
## • VA Gov signs Discrimination order

Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe signed an executive order that bans anti-LGBT discrimination among state employees, contractors and subcontractors. "Starting today, Virginia will not do business with entities that discriminate based on sexual orientation or gender identity," McAuliffe said.

## • PFLAG National in union with protests

Parents and friends of gays organization PFLAG National is in solidarity "with all who took action in support of American citizens, residents, and visitors coming to our country," Interim Executive Director Elizabeth Kohm said. Thousands of PFLAG members in communities large and small took to airports, public spaces and their houses of worship to express concern about recent actions taken by the Trump administration, some of which detained U.S. citizens and legal visa-carrying U.S. residents, sending a chilling message to the rest of the world.

## • Transgender mayor a Texas first



Jess Herbst, mayor of a small Collin County town is the first known openly transgender elected official in Texas history. Herbst was elected mayor of New Hope last May and then came out as trans in an open letter to residents on the town's website. "As your Mayor I must tell you about something that has been with me since my earliest memories. I am Transgender," Herbst wrote, adding that two years ago, she began hormone replacement therapy. Collin County is considered one of the most conservative suburban areas in Texas, with President Donald Trump winning by 17 percentage points in the general election.

*Central Voice* once published about the LGBT community: "We are a resilient people." And we are. After someone broke into the LGBT Community Center in Harrisburg in early January, the center sprang into action Jan. 7. More than 100 people celebrated at a Throw Parties Not Bricks event. The burglar, who nabbed about $20 from a donation jar, had smashed a glass door with a brick. There was no indication the act was anything other than a burglary and does not seem related to the fact that the center services the region's gay community.

## YWCA Honors Women of Excellence

Since its inception, the Tribute to Women of Excellence (TWE) awards ceremony has honored more than 550 women for their contributions to the workplace and community and has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in support of YWCA programs for women, children and men.

The event is March 23, 5:30 p.m. at The Hershey Lodge. This year, the 28th Annual Tribute to Women of Excellence honors 31 women for their efforts:

Joyce Acri, PinnacleHealth Auxiliary; Jorja Barton, Central Pennsylvania Food Bank; Lisa Benzie, Navitsky, Olson & Wisneski LLP; Jeanne Donlevy Arnold, Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center; Kimberley Frank, PSECU; Michelle Furjanic, Penn National Insurance; Dr. Eileen Hennrikus, Penn State College of Medicine; Melisa Henson, Hamilton Health Center; Patricia Higgins, Capital Blue Cross; Kelley E. Kaufman, McNees Wallace & Nurick; Stacy Klann, BB&T; Amanda J. Lavis, Rhoads & Sinon; Kelly Light, Morgan Stanley; Tonya Lovelace, Women of Color Network, Inc.; Parul Luthra, HM Health Solutions; Michele Maxwell, Hershey Entertainment & Resorts; Leslie Meck, Centric Bank; Maria Medina, Comcast Cable, Keystone Region; Christina Persson, PinnacleHealth; Victoria A. Reider, Esq., Cultural Enrichment Fund; Nicole Reilly, KPMG LLC; Dr. Karen Scolforo, Central Penn College; Dorothy M. Scott, Breaking the Chainz, Inc.; Ruth Shiffler, Wilmington Trust; Dr. Mary Simmonds (LEGACY HONOREE) Andrews Patel Associates; Sari Stevens, Planned Parenthood PA Advocates; Casey Stokes-Rodriguez (EMERGING LEADER) Pressley Ridge; Kathy Sweigert, Giant Food Stores; Jennifer Switzler, Boyer & Ritter LLC; Dr.LisaTorp, PinnacleHealth BreastCareCenter; Ann Van Dyke, Community Responders Network

*Info: http://www.ywcahbg.org/events*

*Department of Community and Economic Development Secretary Dennis Davin*

## Economic Development Secretary Addresses Gay & Lesbian Chamber

"We all contribute to Pennsylvania's economic success, and we all have the right to enjoy the benefits that come with it," Dennis Davin, Department of Community and Economic Development Secretary at the annual dinner of the Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce's annual dinner Jan. 26. Davin highlighted importance of the LGBT community's contributions to Pennsylvania's economy. "Our mission at DCED is to foster opportunities for businesses to grow and communities to succeed and thrive, and this is a goal that is inclusive of all groups and individuals," he said. Everyone deserves to be treated equally and receive the same opportunities for improved quality of life and economic benefit," Davin said.

Since taking office, Governor Tom Wolf has signed Executive Order 2015-11 on diversity and inclusion which encourages inclusion of minority, women, LGBT, veteran, and disabled-owned businesses in state government contracting. The order also created the Advisory Council on Diversity, Inclusion, and Small Business Opportunities.

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**BRADBURY-SULLIVAN LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER**

# AIDS Memorial Quilt Panels on Display

The Fine Art Galleries at Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center recently exhibited four panels of The AIDS Memorial Quilt. The exhibit was presented in partnership with AIDS Fund and The NAMES Memorial Project.

The AIDS Memorial Quilt is the largest ongoing community art project in the world and was conceived of in 1985 by San Francisco gay rights activist Cleve Jones, partner of Harvey Milk. Today, more than 48,000 panels have been created by friends and family members of people who died of AIDS.

The exhibit included memorial quilts made by Lehigh Valley families. Notably, Keith Haring's quilt is included in this exhibit. Beth Kilker, whose family made one of the quilts on display, said, "The process of participating and making a quilt as part of The AIDS Memorial Quilt is a reminder that life is sweet in spite of the misery."

## Health Advisory Committee Named

Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center, which prioritizes health and wellness programs for the LGBT community, announced its new Health Programs and Supportive Services Advisory Committee.

The Health Programs and Supportive Services Advisory Committee will provide external expertise and guidance to advise the health programs and supportive services at The Center. Existing programs include administration of LGBT health needs assessments, tobacco & diabetes prevention, gynecologic cancer screening promotion, HIV/STI testing, bereavement and recovery support groups, and more.

The advisory committee includes clinicians, researchers, health advocates and community leaders with expertise in LGBT health and wellness. Committee members are:

*Beth Careyva, M.D., Department of Family Medicine, Lehigh Valley Health Network*
*Meredith Casey, Tobacco Program Manager, American Lung Association in Pennsylvania*
*Elizabeth Goff, M.D., Pediatrician, Lehigh Valley Physicians Group, Lehigh Valley Health Network*
*Anita Kelly, MA, CAC, LPC, Director of Counseling Services & LGBT Coordinator, Muhlenberg College*
*David Moyer, R.N., Retired Community Health Nurse*
*Judith Lasker, Ph.D., NEH Distinguished Professor of Sociology, Lehigh University*
*Jonathan Lassiter, PhD., Assistant Professor of Psychology, Muhlenberg College*
*AJ Schaffer, Trans Health Advocate, Allentown Women's Center*
*Patricia Sullivan, Ed.D., Retired hospital administrator*

Adrian Shanker, Executive Director of Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center, commented, "LGBT health equity is a core focus and priority at Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center. We are committed to working toward health disparity reduction to lead to a healthier LGBT community. The expertise the advisory committee will share with us is invaluable as we continue to work toward health equity for our community."

*Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center (www.bradburysullivancenter.org) provides arts and culture, health promotion, and youth programs as well as supportive services to strengthen and support the LGBT community across the Greater Lehigh Valley.*

She maintained that "it's not God's law to have [same-sex couples] marry."

# Clerk Who Refused to Process Marriage Licenses Loses

Linda Summers, a clerk in Harrison County, Indiana, who refused to process same-sex marriage licenses and was fired for it filed suit, claiming religious discrimination. She lost. A federal district court in that state ruled against her.

The court said, in part: Here, the court finds no objective conflict between Summers' duties as a deputy clerk and her religious opposition to same-sex marriage. When it came to marriage licenses, Summers' job merely required her to process the licenses by entering data and handing out information. Specifically, she had to pull up the application, verify that certain information was correct, collect a statutory fee, print a form, and record the license in a book for public record. At bottom, she was simply tasked with certifying–on behalf of the state of Indiana, not on her own behalf–that the couple was qualified to marry under Indiana law. The duties were purely administrative.

To be clear, Summers did not perform marriage ceremonies or personally sign marriage licenses or certificates. She was not required to attend ceremonies, say congratulations, offer a blessing, or pray with couples. Her employer did not make her express religious approval or condone any particular marriage. Summers remained free to practice her Christian faith and attend church services. She was even free to maintain her belief that marriage is a union between one man and one woman. Thus, she was not forced to "choose between [her] religious convictions and [her] job."…

… [T]he court does not question the sincerity of Summers' beliefs. She maintains that "it's not God's law to have [same-sex couples] marry," … and has pointed to select verses from the Bible in support. That is fine; she has every right to believe that. However, that belief, no matter how sincerely espoused, does not objectively conflict with the purely administrative duty to process marriage licenses. Summers' desire to avoid handling forms related to activities of which she personally disapproves is not protected by federal law. Title VII is not a license for employees to perform only those duties that meet their private approval.

Even if she did have to perform such marriages under the law, or sign the licenses, she should still lose. Her job is to represent the government and the government cannot discriminate and decide to provide services to one group of people but not the other. Same-sex couples have exactly the same right to marry as straight couples do. She can no more refuse to do her job in that regard than she could refuse to do so for an interracial couple.

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## RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

# Interfaith Theme on Martin Luther King Day

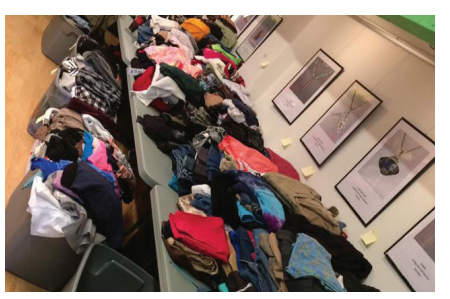
"No one should be bullied in school, or anywhere, because of their faith, sexual orientation, nationality, for any reason. We want the school children here today to know this," said (left) Michael Walsh, Central PA Martin Luther King Day of Service Committee. A diverse group of about 300 people from across the community celebrated the slain civil rights leader's national holiday Jan. 16 at Harrisburg's Hadee Mosque, of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. Local State Rep. Patty Kim (right) also addressed the group as did PA Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera, student Brielle Sider, Harrisburg Mayor Eric Papenfuse, Joseph Robinson Jr., MLK Leadership Development Institute, and Dr. Anize Appel, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. The day also included an Interfaith Dialogue.

# 'Out of the Closet' Clothing Swap

The first clothing swap was held in October 2016 as a means of providing free clothing for anyone in or out of the LGBTQ+ community in a safe and affirming space, regardless of someone's sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression. As a portion of this year's swap, Mpower has expanded the event to also include a Resource Fair.

"We're reaching out again after a successful event last time around," said Andrew Armstrong, Mpower organizer.

The LGBTQ+ Clothing Swap 'Out of the Closet', held by Mpower PA, is April 15, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., 100 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg.



# making sense of life

*By Dr. Terry Drew Karanen*

***In this issue begins a five-part series on self-care, including personal empowerment, self-esteem and being content in life.***

What is it that you feel you "have to do?" Are there duties or responsibilities in your life that fall into this category? Most of us probably have a few obligations we dread throughout the week. You may have experienced two of those last month when you felt you had to attend a gathering for the holidays or felt compelled to purchase a gift for a friend, relative or colleague.

Can you relate to those two possibilities or have you thought of something else? Truthfully, you didn't have to do whatever it was you didn't want to do. But, ask yourself this: What would have happened if I hadn't done that? There might have been consequences to pay. A friend might have been hurt or people might have talked about you. As always, we have freedom of choice, but not of consequence; it's up to each of us to determine whether our choices are worth the consequences (or rewards).

When my elderly father was in need of end-of-life support I felt "I had to" care for him. That feeling gnawed on me, producing both anger and sadness. So I made a choice. I changed my mind and attitude about the entire situation. I made a conscious decision that I would chose to take care of him. What was the result? I felt an immediate sense of peace, calm and contentment. Why? Because when we recognize that any action is a choice instead of a burden or obligation we move from the consciousness of a victim to a place of empowerment and strength.

Do you sometimes feel you "have to go to" some event or function? Why? Ask yourself what is the absolute worst thing that could happen if you didn't. Will someone you love die because you didn't attend? Most likely not. Perhaps another person who didn't want to go will deride you – "I forced myself to go! You should have, too!" Then ask yourself, Can I live with that? When we show up anywhere in life not wanting to be there we make ourselves miserable and we're not that terrific to be around for others either.

Are there things you feel you "have to do" for others? This question begs another: Are you a caretaker or a caregiver? Caretakers take over and do everything for the other person. True, this is necessary for a bed-ridden patient or an infant. This is not at all true for roommate who consistently doesn't remember to buy the toilet paper. We can choose to constantly make excuses because "That's just the way they are," or we can decide to let the person experience the consequences of their actions. In this example, the outcome could be quite a crappy situation for him. And you know what? NOT your problem!

Or, do you feel you have to make excuses when you "have to do something" for yourself? None of us should ever feel compelled to explain, justify or defend taking care of our own needs. It is by taking care of ourselves that we regenerate our bodies and enliven our souls. That can mean time to be alone, going to the gym or taking a walk, eating when we're hungry instead of accepting food thrust upon us, or deciding how to dress. And this "have to" is probably the most difficult for most people. Why is this?

It's because society or religion decided long ago that it looks better to be out taking care of the world instead of taking care of our own needs – think GCM (Good Christian Martyr) Syndrome. This isn't to say service to others isn't important, or to insinuate that we shouldn't be concerned with what's going on around us. It does mean self-care must be at the top of our list so we'll have energy to give to others.

We aren't going to get a lot of accolades for taking an extra three minutes luxuriating in the shower or deciding to sit quietly with a cup of tea petting the cat. We must love ourselves enough to be completely satisfied just to know we did something important for ourselves. But that takes self-esteem, which will be the topic of this column in the next issue – See you then!

*Terry is an author, speaker, licensed social worker and flight attendant. He is also the director of Spirit, Mind and Body Foundation (spiritmindbodyfoundation.org).*

NO
you don't
*"have to"*

***None of us should ever feel compelled to explain, justify or defend taking care of our own needs.***

*(top) Club Kid co-founder Michael Alig, after 17 years in prison and two years on parole for the murder of Andre "Angel" Melendez, (below) killed March 17, 1996.*

# Club Kid Michael Alig Creating His ~~Second~~ *Third* Act?

*By Frank Pizzoli*

"I'm doing what I do best – creative work in a club atmosphere," Michael Alig tells *Central Voice.*

Out of prison since May 5, 2014 for the March 17, 1996 killing of Andre "Angel" Melendez, Club Kid co-founder Michael Alig is now creative consultant at Rumpus Room, a reincarnation of the Lower East Side Sapphire Lounge's iconic dance floor.

After almost 17 years in prison for manslaughter, Alig is producing Outrage, a Monday night party at the Room, but not without consequences. His Nov. 28, 2016 "release from parole" party lit up social media. Detractors thought him cruel to celebrate manslaughter while Melendez, (he'd be 45 today, Alig is 50) remains dead.

Alig told the *New York Post*, "I didn't really realize what a can of worms it would be, and we just kind of booked it without thinking, which was a real mistake. It should have been something very well-thought-out and done correctly with a nonprofit and made into a benefit." Alig decided to donate partial proceeds and half his paycheck to Gateway Alcohol & Drug Treatment Centers.

Alig has always lived in the Limelight, the late 80s/early 90s answer to Studio 54. He and his Club Kids invaded subway cars and even a Burger King. He and friends created a rebellious, self-expressive style that fueled global nightlife during their reign. They cavorted with RuPaul, Lady Bunny, and legions of fast burning party candles. His impresario was Peter Gatien, the "King of New York Clubs" and owner of Limelight, Palladium, USA, and Tunnel, after being hit with tax evasion charges was banned from entering the US. Gatien has since reversed that circumstance, appealing to his status as part Cherokee Indian who, like all Indian tribes, cannot be deported or banned.

When in the 20s writer F. Scott Fitzgerald said "There are no second acts in American life," he wasn't anticipating Michael Alig.

*Central Voice* caught up with Alig in NYC.

Are you sober? was our first question.

"By the time I came home from prison, I was sober. I'd gone to AA and NA meetings inside," Alig explained. During the two years since his release, he's morphed his program. "Certainly my intention is to be sober from drugs and alcohol. But I don't like 12 Step programs and I don't like 12 Step people," he states firmly.

"I don't believe it's a good mix. 12 Step individuals and creative minds. Don't get me wrong, I think a lot about what I did in the past. My drug use was intense, disgusting. It's disgusting to me today," Alig says. On any given day back in his glory days, Alig told CV he was using combinations of heroin, Ketamine, cocaine, Xanax, crack, Rohypnol, pain pills, LSD. "I felt slimy for what I did," he told *Huffington Post.*

Today Alig has "a glass of alcohol every now and then. Luckily I don't like the taste or the effects alcohol has on me, the headaches or the dehydration. So I'll have only one or two drinks."

He speaks at rehabilitation and drug treatment centers.

"They often don't like the fact that I am not into a 12 Step program and that I still may use alcohol. But I'm honest with them. I tell them exactly where I'm at as an individual who has faced his addiction demons," Alig says.

Of course CV asked. "Sure, I slip every now and then," Alig said of his sobriety.

He also tells rehab audiences his goals.

"The Rumpus Room on Monday nights has been very successful," Alig says. "In fact, since the December release of Glory Days: The Life and Times of Michael Alig the club's social media activity has doubled."

So has the social media activity of the film's web site says director Ramon Fernandez. Other movies about Alig are Party Monster, Limelight, Party Monster: The Schockumentary. " Longtime Alig friend and club kid James St. James last week filmed soon to be released Party Monster 2 at the Rumpus Room.

Fernandez advised Alig he should expect this.

"And indeed he knew what he was talking about. I've received 16 gallery offers to show my past work, Toronto, Brazil," he says. He's also working on newer projects to add to his collection of work. "I'm having some smaller showings in downtown galleries on the Lower East Side. To reintroduce my old work while I work on some new pieces."

*Village Voice* columnist Michael Musto followed Alig back in the 90s. It is often said his column is what eventually led to Alig's arrest. Musto's nightlife coverage also nailed the club culture Zeitgeist.

"He picked up on the fact that we were satirizing 'celebrity' and what was going on around us. Satire is often mistaken for the real thing. It has the most effect that way," Alig says.

"Let's face it the 80s was a decade of scams. Club Kids didn't invent scams. Wall Street did. But now it's become the new normal. Technology allows almost anyone to be a scammer but we have to be careful that we don't get caught up in it all," Alig observes.

Talk about getting caught up in it, CV asked Alig about Vice President Michael Pence. They're both from Indiana.

"Don't blame that on me," he exclaims!

"Many of my European friends don't understand the United States right now, why we've elected who we have as leaders. I don't like the trend," he says."

Alig does like that gay people and other "other" groups remain trendsetters.

"What starts with us in the clubs and at street level, down on the Lower East Side, works itself up to Midtown and eventually Madison Avenue and into large corporations," Alig says. Big business "incorporates into their goods, services and products what bubbles up from gay people, and other outsiders," he says. "We're a creative community. I don't see that changing no matter who's in the White House."

How about Alig's house? His mom?

"My Mom is 74 years old. In the last two years, I've visited her for all the holidays and at other times," Alig says. "She has the typical health challenges of a 74-year-old," he says. He has fond childhood memories of holidays and other occasions. "It's always a treat to go back and be with her. There were times back in the day when she participated with some of my club antics. So we have a lot of shared experiences that span many years."

Post prison, Alig has said that "a life not spent helping others is not a life well spent." Is that the grand conclusion of his party years and prison stretch?

"I think so. I realize now more than ever the universal good in helping others. I would like to help," Alig says.

**POSTSCRIPT – *Rewrite!* hollered *The Daily Planet's* Perry White as cub reporter Jimmy Olsen scrambled for a note book and Lois Lane adjusted her bra knowing it would be a long night. Where's Superman when you need him?**

Since completing this interview, Alig was arrested Feb. 2 for trespassing and allegedly smoking crystal meth in a park outside the Bronx Supreme Court, a police source told the New York Daily News. He was arrested after a cop caught him in Joyce Kilmer Park in Concourse at about 1:30 a.m., according to a criminal complaint. The park closes after dusk, and police found a bag of crystal meth and a pipe with residue from the drug in his jacket pocket, the complaint alleges. Alig was arraigned on drug possession and trespass charges, and pleaded guilty to trespass in exchange for a conditional discharge, sources said. Page Six reported that Alig claims the drug arrest was a misunderstanding and that he was carrying a healing crystal called "piedra alumbre," which the cops mistook for drugs and tests prove was of a non-meth variety. The police couldn't immediately provide any records to confirm that claim, according to Unicorn Booty.

Alig was in the news a month earlier when on Jan. 4 celeb DJ Keoki, 50, (for about one year, years ago, Alig's boyfriend) confirmed Keoki (birth name George Lopez) was one of two men collared after 36-year-old Thomas Felty, a former NBC producer, was found dead in an Upper East Side apartment.

According to LA Weekly, police responded to the apartment at 514 E. 83rd St. after a man called cops about 3:30 a.m. on Jan. 4 to report that someone had died, New York Police Department Officer Tiffany Philips said. The deceased had "arranged to meet up at the

*Continued on page17*

# Mural Artist *continued from page one*

*Lebanon-born Katie Trainer in front of Golden Ratio of Timelessness, her first mural completed November 2016 on Cherry Street Mural Corridor in West Reading.*

upcoming book *What Are the Chances?* She has a not-yet-released central Pennsylvania travel awareness campaign.

Trainer's first mural, Golden Ratio of Timelessness, was completed November 2016 on Cherry Street Mural Corridor in West Reading.

She is working in the region with arts communities in Lebanon, West Reading, Lancaster and Harrisburg to create public art pieces, mostly murals, in the upcoming year. Trainer is working with Sprocket Works and is applying for an Artist Residency program through Harrisburg's Jump Street, where she would teach school children to create public art in the community.

"I also have a few mural projects potentially in development in small cities around the area ranging from restaurants to bowling alleys," Trainer says.

**What motivates Trainer's mural art?**

"I am all about creating harmony. I design my works with theoretical science based upon physics, sacred geometry, Fibonacci ratio, and the electromagnetic spectrum," she explains. "I wish to produce pieces that inspire people to live in harmony with the world and each other."

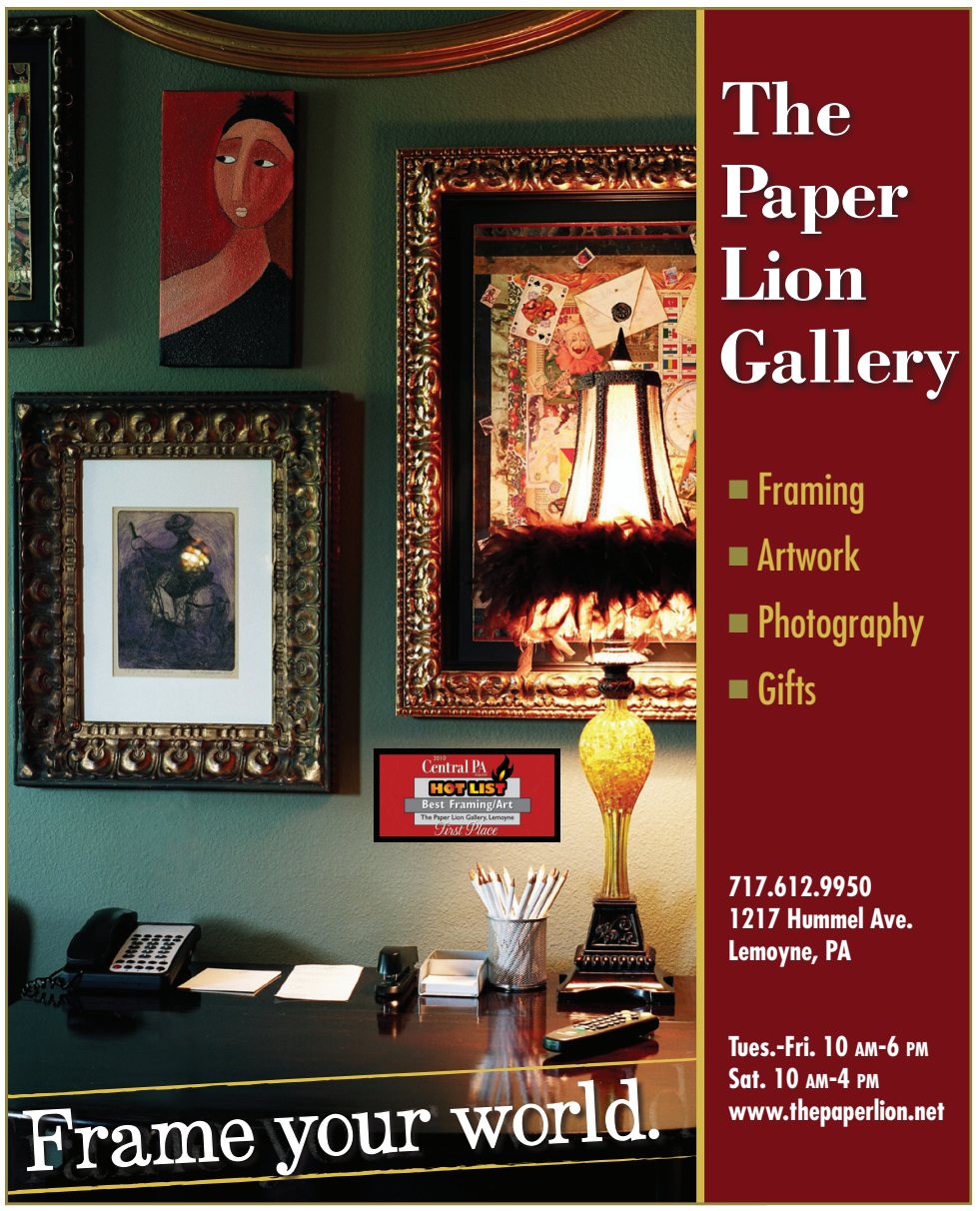
**Best mural story?**

The comments people make while she paints. "There were two murals being made at the same time in West Reading, about a block apart, mine and Andrew Pochan's Today is a Bright Night. The artists would check in with each other multiple times daily. People would "drive by and cat call our creations like, "Yeah, that's beautiful! or "I love it!" One man yelled to Andrew, "That shit's straight fire, yo!" That quote became our comment to each other for the rest of the time we finished our pieces which took three weeks.

In Trainer's plans for the region is to recreate her West Reading mural tour.

"I assisted with organizing a free mural tour on Shop Small Saturday. We explained the artists' inspiration and details about public art.," Trainer says. She'd love to similar tours started in the region.

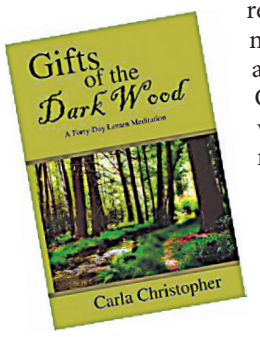
*Contact: https://www.facebook.com/Katie.Trainer.Magic/*

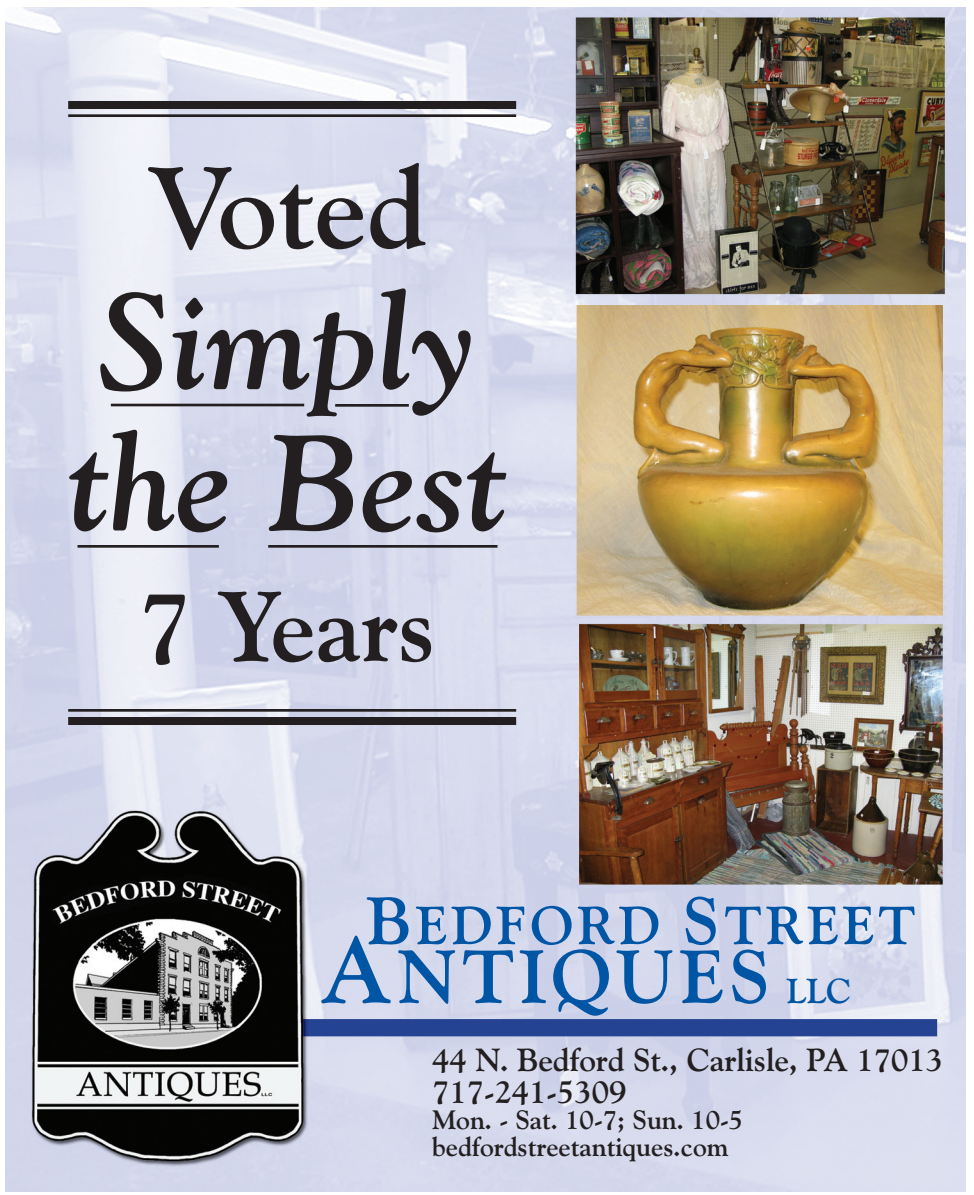


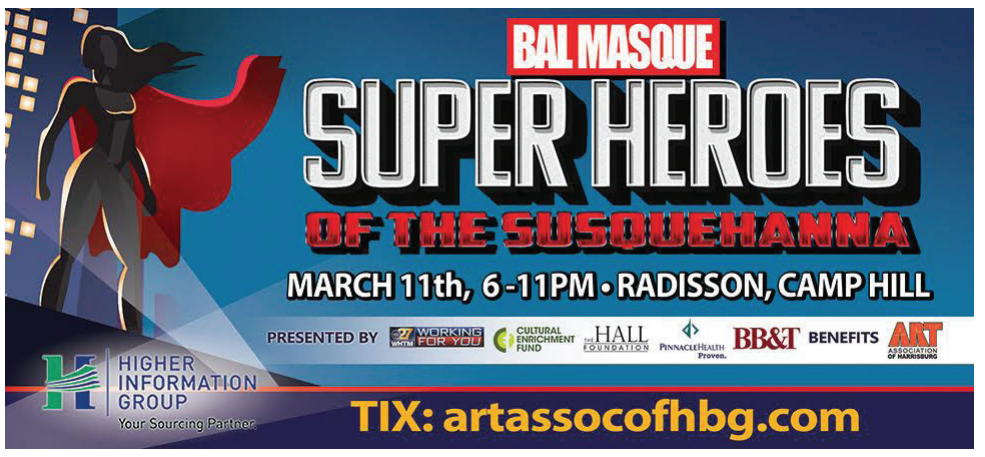
# ReCyCLED WORdS

## A Forty-Day Lenten Meditation

A brave and unconventional memoir reveals itself through the daily meditations of a writer and 'open and affirming' congregation pastoral staff member, Carla Christopher. Through the forty days of a Lenten season, Christopher reflects on reconciling the darkest moments of our memory with a trusting faith in a loving God who has an ultimate plan for our good. Told with wry wit, poetic beauty, and engaging storytelling, Christopher melds themes from Lenten teachings with tales from her own personal "dark woods" to unearth a powerful awakening within which anyone can find inspiration and healing. Christopher is lead organizer of York's Equality Day scheduled for Aug. 6. *Info: Carlachristopher.com - http://www.equalityfestyork.com*




# Bal Masque Features 'Super Heroes of the Susquehanna'

Join forces March 11, 6-11 p.m. with the Art Association of Harrisburg and the real, live Super Heroes of the Susquehanna. The event promotes the visual arts in the region.

Held at the Radisson Hotel, Camp Hill, the legendary Bal Masque officially features Super Heroes of the Susquehanna.

Grab your capes and tights, don your masks and seize your chance to dress as your super hero alter ego. Compete for prizes in a spectacular costume parade. Attendess are also able to attend as your citizen self. Guests will enjoy exciting silent and live auctions, gourmet food, a cash bar, and music by DJ Jonathan Frazier.

Only those in attendance will receive a limited edition original comic book *Super Heroes of the Susquehanna* by Brad Gebhart, featuring Honorary Bal Chairs: Dr. David Bronstein, DO, Super Hero of Science & Medicine; Alice Anne Schwab, Executive Director of the Susquehanna Art Museum, Super Hero of Arts & Culture; John Frisch, President of Higher Information Group, Super Hero of Business & Industry.

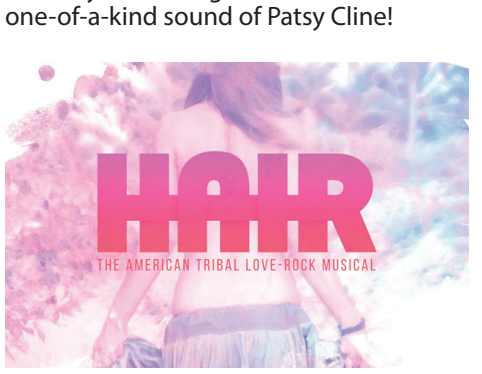
Ticketing levels are $150 for Super Heroes, and $100 for Side Kicks. Do what's right and make your reservations at www.artassocofhbg.com. Or call 717-236-1432 for more information. Proceeds from the Bal Masque support The Art Association of Harrisburg's education and exhibition programs.

# MARCH/APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

**NATIVE FLUTE MEETS STEINWAY**
**The Art Association of Harrisburg**
**April 30, 2p.m.**
Award winning musicians David Rose (Native American flute) and Dan Kennedy (piano) will perform April 30, 2 p.m. at The Art Association of Harrisburg. David's and Dan's contemporary instrumental music unites a combination of traditional elements and original compositions. An amalgam of classical, Native American, and new age, their music is soothing and at once wonderfully mysterious. David will employ up to a dozen different flutes during a performance. Dan will happily be chiming in from behind the gallery's Steinway baby grand piano. $10 suggested donation

**IN THE MOOD, A 40'S MUSICAL REVUE**
**Majestic Theatre, Gettysburg College**
**April 7, 7:30 pm**
A fully staged tribute to America's "greatest generation" with costumes & choreography starring the String of Pearls Big Band Orchestra, singers & dancers. Hop aboard the "Chattanooga Choo Choo" and you'll soon be IN THE MOOD to hear some great musicians "Sing, Sing, Sing." Much more than just a concert, the show is a fully staged tribute to Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman and all the big band greats of the '40s. Complete with costumes and choreography, the show pays homage to America's greatest generation, when people boogied to up-tempo big band rhythms and slow danced to intimate ballads. A fully staged tribute to America's "greatest generation" with costumes & choreography starring the String of Pearls Big Band Orchestra, singers & dancers. Back by popular demand!
Tickets: 717-337-8200

**ALWAYS... PATSY CLINE**
**Fulton Theatre**
**April 18 - May 21**
A music legend and pioneer in Country music, Patsy Cline's unique stylings remain as relevant and popular today as they were over five decades ago. The original cross-over sensation, topping the Country and Pop Charts, Cline paved the way for artists such as, LeAnn Rimes, Shania Twain, and Carrie Underwood. *Always… Patsy Cline* is based on a touching true story affectionately told through letters written between Patsy and her biggest fan turned confidant, Louise Segar. Featuring 27 unforgettable hits, including "Crazy," "Walkin' After Midnight," "I Fall to Pieces," and "Sweet Dreams," this musical memory book is a glorious tribute to the one-of-a-kind sound of Patsy Cline!




**HAIR**
**Sharadin Bigler Theatre**
**April 27 – May 13**
Hair is a rock musical and a product of the hippie counterculture and sexual revolution of the 1960s. Several of its songs became anthems of the anti-Vietnam War peace movement as America searched for answers in a sea of purple haze. The American Musical would never be the same. Hair was the show that defined a generation as it captured the youthful anti-establishment ethos of the late 60s and early 70s. Controversial and edgy, Hair has lost none of its bite as it entertains the mind as well as the spirit.

**BRIT FLOYD**
**Hershey Theatre**
**April 4, 8 pm**
The hotly anticipated rock event of the year returns, as Brit Floyd brings the music of Pink Floyd to life once again with its lavish new stage show, Immersion World Tour 2017. The spectacle of a Pink Floyd concert experience is truly recaptured in high-definition sound, and with a stunning million dollar light show and state of the art video design. As well as performing the favourite moments from "The Dark Side of the Moon", "Wish You Were Here", "The Wall" and "The Division Bell", Brit Floyd will also pay special tribute to the Animals album, in its 40th anniversary year, with a show stopping rendition of 'Dogs', as well as a host of other Pink Floyd musical gems.

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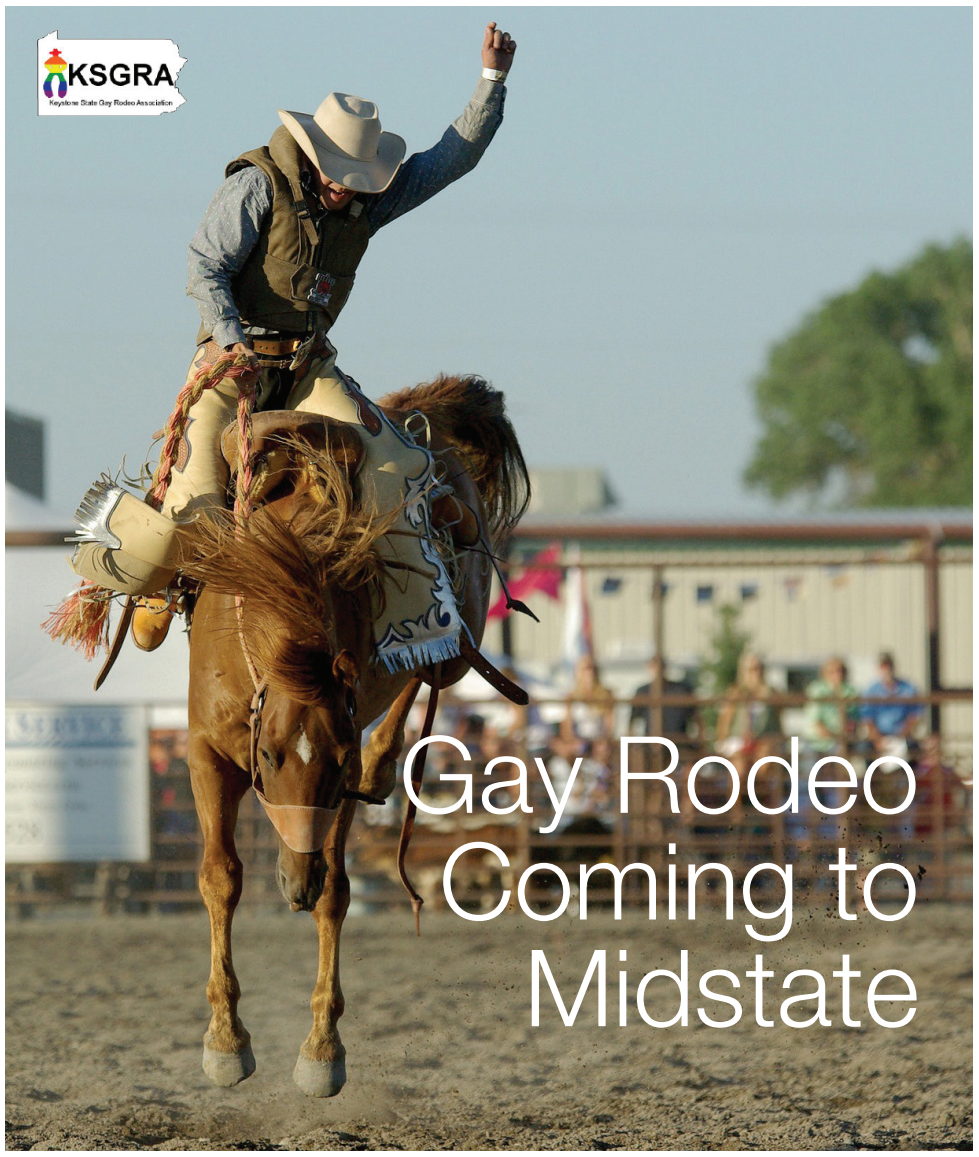



# Gay Rodeo Coming to Midstate

The first Keystone State Gay Rodeo will be held June 24-25 at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex.

Event registration and a Kick-off Welcome Party is scheduled for June 23.

"We're chomping at the bit to get going," says Adam Romanik, president, Keystone State Gay Rodeo Association. The group has been holding benefits for more than a year in order to raise the capital needed for such an event.

"We've had great support from the region's LGBT community," Romanik says. So far, there are eight organizations serving as community partners: Central PA LGBT Center; Atlantic States Gay Rodeo Association; MCC of the Spirit, Harrisburg; Dover UCC; St Paul's UCC; Equality PA; Rock Run Animal Rescue; and Central PA Equality Foundation. Community partners are helping sell rodeo tickets and market the rodeo with a portion of the ticket sales proceeds going to their respective organizations.

"Our Charity Sponsor for the event is Alder Health Service is," Romanik says.

Alder Health will assist with ticket sales, provide volunteers day of the event, and help market the rodeo to the community. The organization will receive a donation from rodeo proceeds.

"We would love to have other community partners," Romanik says. Interests groups can find information at *http://ksgra.org.*

Current media sponsors are *Philadelphia Gay News, Baltimore Outloud, and Central Voice.*

What can attendees expect?

Attendees can expect everything you would see at a traditional rodeo with a few variations. Anyone is welcome to compete in a gay rodeo. That means anyone who identifies as LGBTQ or their straight allies.

Both men and women alike fully complete in all events including bull riding, saddle bronc riding, chute dogging, and barrel racing. Both men and women ride the same class of livestock under the same rules and requirements.

Each International Gay Rodeo-sanctioned rodeos offer 13 events, including traditional rodeo events as well as a few fun crowd pleasers. Traditional events include bull riding, saddle bronc riding, barrel racing, and calf roping. Other events, that are only offered at IGRA-sanctioned rodeos, include goat dressing, steer decorating, steer riding, flag racing, pole bending and the wild drag race.

Competitors compete for prize money and the title of All-Around Cowboy and Cowgirl. Winners of each event receive trophy buckles.

Price: Adult Weekend Pass - includes admission both days, Country Ho-Down Saturday Night Dance, $35

Adult Single Day Pass - includes admission into one day of the rodeo, $15

Adult Dance Pass - includes admission into the Country Ho-Down Saturday Night Dance, $10

Child Single Day Pass - includes admission into one day of the rodeo, $5.00

Parking at the farm show is $10.00

# *Queer City* Not Your "usual suspects"

*By Frank Pizzoli*

"You definitely won't be watching the usual suspects," says *AfterEllen's* Daniela Costa.

Popular at film festivals, the film recently gained us and UK release through Flix Premiere.

"We thought the film was a portrait of individual lives at a time when the communal struggles were over. Alas, the communal wars are back with Trump in the White House, but that only makes the movie more timely than ever," Christopher Bram tells *Central Voice*. Bram served as writer and associate producer. He is author of nine novels, including the novel that became the Academy Award-winning movie, *Gods and Monsters.* His most recent book is *Eminent Outlaws: The Gay Writers Who Changed America.*

*Queer City's* director is Draper Shreeve, who has made four narrative shorts including the award-winning *Dangerous Music* featuring Tony Award-winner John Benjamin Hickey. Previous documentaries include *Kids of Penzance*, featured on Documentary Channel. In addition to *Queer City,* he is finishing *Everything Matters*, a film telling the stories of cancer and HIV patients of Harvard Medical School's Dr. Ann Webster, a health psychologist.

The film weaves together stories like a fictional narrative, offering a polyphonic portrait of American lives. The setting is New York, but the tales have resonance far beyond its borders -- just as the city attracts citizens from all over the world.

Among the people followed are:

*A tough, cool, working-class Latina from Queens with a gift for storytelling and a knack for falling in love.*

*An eighty-year-old English painter who grew up in the London Blitz and later sought refuge as a gay man in New York. He now teaches art to Alzheimer's patients.*

*An exuberant bisexual woman who has forged a highly successful career as a director of gay adult film.*

*A young, street-smart Haitian man who grew up gender-identified as female. He brings the story of his journey to breathtaking life. During his transition, he lived with his family in Coney Island, who were sometimes supportive and sometimes not.*

*A Brooklyn lesbian couple who met as undergraduates at Yale 25 years ago, and now manage demanding careers while raising twins. The kids are wonderfully frank about what it's like to have two moms.*

*A New York City politician who was a major force in passing New York State's same-sex marriage bill. He describes how his painful experience of being gay-bashed as a young man has fed his politics.*

In the course of the film, viewers get to know these people intimately and discover their many sides. And through them explore some of the different ways queer people live now.

*Info: https://flixpremiere.com/film/queer-city*

*From Michael Alig's web site – Photo by Inaki Vinaixa*

# Club Kid Michael Alig

*continued from page 12*

residence" after becoming acquainted with one of the suspects online, she said: "It seems drugs were involved."

"The caller stated the deceased went to sleep, then about 3:30 was discovered deceased and unresponsive," Philips said. On Jan. 6, Keoki (Lopez) was booked after drugs were discovered at the address, she said. He was arrested on suspicion of holding drugs and possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell it. Lopez also had a warrant, the details of which were not available, Philips said. Also arrested was Patrick Walsh, 33, the other suspect, collared on suspicion of drug possession, police said. She alleged he was in possession of methamphetamine, gamma-hydroxybutyric acid (GHB) and drug paraphernalia. The *New York Post*, citing cops, reported that nearly $27,000 in cash was found at the apartment, along with 150 ecstasy bills and other drugs.

On the telephone with *Central Voice* about 12 hours after the arrests, Alig confirmed the celeb DJ was at Riker's Island. "Thank you to all the friends who contributed to Keoki's bail," Alig stated in his media response. "We hope to have him out by tomorrow."

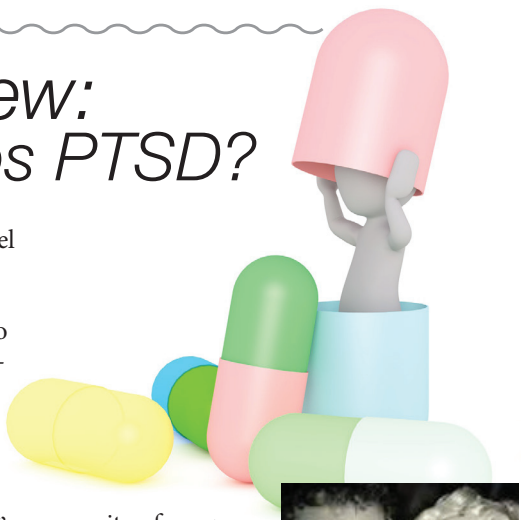
By the morning of Feb. 7, Keoki was off to rehab after having a going away party the night before at Rumpus Room, where Alig holds court Monday nights with his Outrage party.

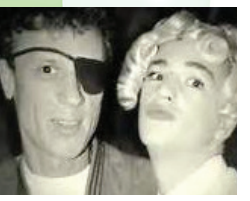
# *Who Knew:* Club Drug Helps PTSD?

During Club Kid co-founder Michael Alig's heyday, Club King Peter Gatien was importing what the feds claimed were the largest hauls of psychedelic club drugs into the US. Think Molly, Ecstasy, MDMA. Gatien is a Canadian club owner best known as the former owner of several New York nightclubs, including Limelight (originally a church turned rehab center, then into Limelight followed by an upscale gym-spa, and now vacant except for a bike riding to electronic music place), Palladium, USA, and Tunnel. He was dubbed "King of New York Clubs", during the late 80s in New York City.

Today, the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies, a small non-profit created in 1985 to advocate the legal medical use of MDMA, LSD, and marijuana and other banned drugs have sponsored six phase two studies treating a total of 130 PTSD patients with the stimulant. It will also fund the Phase 3 research study, which will include at least 230 other patients.

After three doses of MDMA administered under psychiatrist guidance come of the patients reported a 56% decrease of





*Peter Gatien and Club Kid founder Michael Alig at Limelight in the 90s*

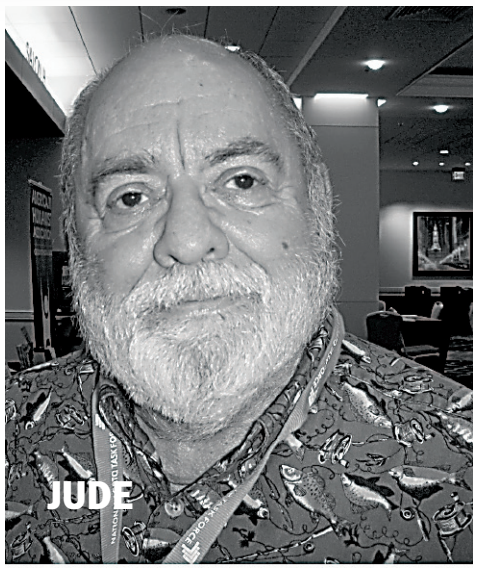
severity of symptoms on average. Come one study found that by the end of the study two thirds no longer met the criteria for having PTSD. Periodic follow up examinations found that group's improvements lasted more than a year after therapy.

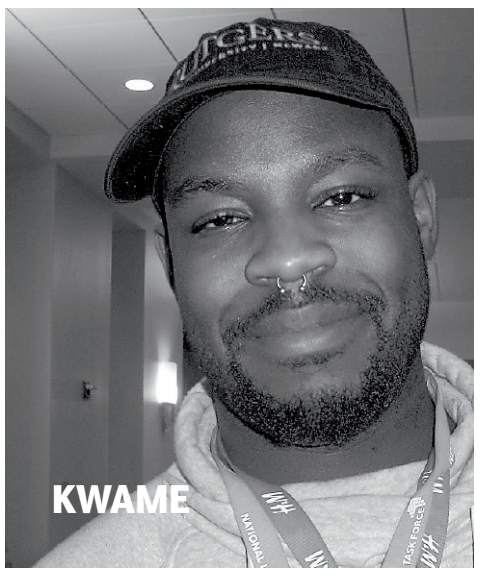
Researchers are so optimistic that they have applied for a so-called breakthrough therapy status with the Food and Drug Administration which would speed the approval process. If approved the drug could be available by 2021.

# CENTRAL VOICE ASKS:

# What issues are important to you?

Creating Change, the largest national LGBT movement-building conference in the US, convened Jan. 18-21 in Philadelphia. *Central Voice* was a Media Sponsor. In its 29th year, the conference is organized by the National LGBTQ Task Force and is attended by more than 4,600 LGBT activists, organizers, and community leaders. *Central Voice* asked participants what LGBT and non-LGBT issues are important to them. And what action they will take.





### COOPER

***LGBT Issue*** - The most important LGBT issue to me is transgender bathrooms. A lot needs to be resolved.

***Non-LGBT Issue*** - The most important non-LGBT issue to me is quite frankly the president. I am terrified of the future in general. I feel like he doesn't know what he's doing. And I feel like he's incompetent.

***Action*** - To take action, I have applied to be a foreign exchange student. I feel like it will give me new experiences. Everybody here knows me and I get judged. If I go to a new place I can have a year to make a fresh start.

### JOHANNA

***LGBT Issue*** - Increasing my commitment of my time with the Pennsylvania Youth Congress. Educating myself on issues. It's also time to practice what we preach with regards to the intersectionality of all aspects of the LGBT movement. To reach as many people as we can regardless of race or economic circumstance.

***Non-LGBT Issue*** – The political climate and the Affordable Care Act. I am someone who has chronic health conditions and it is very important to me that I am secure in the knowledge that I will have access to the medications that I need and that my family and my friends and my loved ones and everyone will have the access to the care that they need regardless of their ability to pay out of pocket.

***Action*** – Increasing my commitment while still taking care of myself.

### KWAME

***LGBT Issue*** - Activism. People need to speak up, unify, understand that we all need to help each other. We forget that we're all basically in the same boat. We need to be there for one another. We need to focus on policies that affect all of us as a whole and not act as if that your issues doesn't affect me. What hurts you will eventually come and hurt me as well. What hurts me will eventually hurt you too.

***Non-LGBT Issue*** – Student loans are crazy. I'm in school and I'm not rich. I have to pay for my education I want a good start in life and to continue being an activist.

***Action*** – I'm going to be more active on my campus. Definitely going to get involved different campus organizations to move their silo, to promote a more inclusive campus.

### JUDE

***LGBT Issue*** - The current president and whether my rights will be taken away. I fought for my civil rights for years. I'm an older trans individual and I don't like knowing I have to devote the rest of my life to devote to the same things I did preserving what's already been accomplished regarding social justice.

***LGBT Issue*** – You name it.

Action – I'm writing a book on LGBTQ people and their companion animals. I'm also a physician assistant in psychiatry and I work with homeless, chronically mentally ill adults. I'll be active with that issue too.

### KELSEY

***LGBT Issue*** – My biggest issue deals with all of us coming together as a group and not seeing each other as just a bunch of letters – LGBTQAA++. We are a whole community that needs to stay with one another.

***Non-LGBT Issue*** –Most definitely the Black Lives Matter movement and not just pertaining to black lives but brown lives as well. We are being targeted as a group by police. And now with national politics as well. We need to stay together and stand strong without being hateful because hate just creates more hate.

***Action*** – I most definitely will become a mentor and a leader. I will make sure that if someone does not understand what I am fighting for I will not attack them. I'll make sure to challenge the idea and help them understand where I'm coming from because once we're able to do that we'll be able to work together as a group.

### JANICE

***LGBT Issue*** – Gay, lesbian, and transgender rights. I just feel like we're going to be under attack again. We don't have a supportive government.

***Non-LGBT Issue*** – I've heard so much about Roe vs. Wade and I've been a women's rights activist most of my life. Turning that back would really upset me.

***Action*** – Everything I can. There's going to be lots of opportunities to protest and join other folks in the street, to resist. Think ACT UP 2017.

## Creating Change on the Local Scene

Lebanon Valley College reacts with a "Love Conquers Hate" rally Jan. 22 attended by 800 students after junior student Rickey Lee Bugg Jr., Hummelstown, alleged that an Annville restaurant restaurant owner used a racial slur against, asking him to leave. The campus has been dealing with racist graffiti and signs posted with racial overtones.

Incidents have also been reported at Shippensburg University, University of Pennsylvania, Villanova and Albright. Last Fall, Rev. Diane L. Jefferson, Director of Multicultural Student Affairs at Shippensburg University, was honored with a FAB Award by the LGBT Community Center, Harrisburg for her work. After a request by LGBT students, Jefferson assisted them in organizing a group for discussion and socializing on campus.

# June 11: Major LGBT March on Washington

Drawing inspiration from recent Women's March on Washington, a gay activist in New York City has announced plans for the National Pride March, a "mass" LGBT protest at the nation's capital on June 11.

David Bruinooge, 42, of Brooklyn, N.Y., announced the plan on Facebook and created an event page for those interested in keeping up with the protest's progress.

"We urge all supporters, friends, and family to descend on DC for the Pride 2017 weekend (June 8-11th) to make sure our voices are heard," part of the post reads.

The march will coincide with Capital Pride, D.C.'s annual pride celebration, and organizers hope to draw big numbers to send a clear message to Washington's powered elite that LGBT rights are not to be threatened.

# Things Happen in 3s?

Have you ever thought about having a menage-a-trois?

Yeah, that's you and 64 % of the population.

According to a survey of 274 heterosexuals ages 18 to 24 published in Archives of Sexual Behavior, people - guys especially - are definitely on board with threesomes.

In addition to the 82 % of men and 31 % of women interested in hooking up with two people at once,

24 % of men and 8 % of women say they've already done it. Men preferred to know the person who would join them and their partner, whereas women only cared whether they knew the other two people if they were the third party brought in to accompany a couple.

Another study of 18 to 39-year-olds across the globe in 2013 found that an even greater number - 20 % -of people say they had engaged in threesomes. According to a *New York* magazine article from 2009, Craigslist NYC had 1,493 requests for threesomes in one week. And according to a survey by BaDoink, threesomes are men's No.1 sexual fantasy.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# Women's March January 2017

PHILADELPHIA – Creating Change Delegation – *Central Voice Photo*

The Harrisburg Region was represented by 556 women and allies at the Jan. 21 Women's March in Washington, DC. The Capitol City saw 1,100 assemble for a local march. Estimates are that 1 in 100 US citizens, or 3.2 million of the total 33 million US population, participated in more than 300 locations across the nation. (Central Voice participated in a Photo Pool for the March.)

RELATED STORIES ON PAGES 6 & 23

WASHINGTON, DC

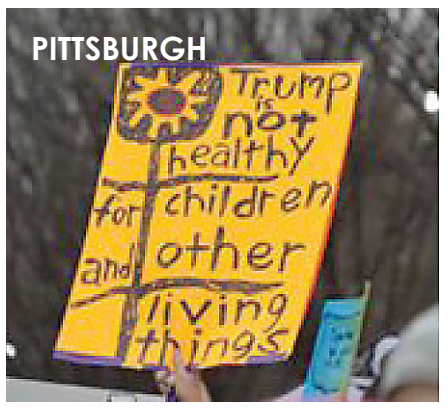
## WOMEN'S MARCH ESTIMATES:

# 1 in 100

## US citizens participated

ERIE – Thousands participated in the Women's March at the Erie County Courthouse in Perry Square.

MILFORD - sent a bus to the march in DC – *Photo by Rene'e Hoover*



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# Will resistance continue?

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# Trump Real Cause of Global Warming

## *"He needs to just STFU!" scientists say*

*By Sofonda Cox*

Scientists have been saying for years that "human behavior" is the cause of global warming. Our use of fossil fuels, so the theory goes, to create the energy needed by Earth's 7.3 billion people heats up the planet's atmospheric temperature. The temperature rise, if sustained, creates extreme weather events like hurricanes, floods, and sea-level increases to coastal cities.

Now researchers say the global rise in temperatures is not the result of 7.3 billion people relying on fossil fuels. Global warming, they claim, is due to one person -President-elect Donald J. Trump.

"We pointed our heat-source finder thingy in 7.3 billion different directions," explains Dr. Wana Be. The patented device makes a really loud Ding-Ding-Ding noise when it finds a heat source. "Without a doubt, when the thingy finds Trump the dinger goes nuts!" Wana Be says. "Trump registers the loudest noise on the device."

"No wonder Trump denies global warming," Wana Be says.

"Makes sense," says fellow scientist Fula Bula. "You cannot funnel out that much malarkey and not have consequences. He needs to just STFU!"

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# Do Gays Need Guns?

*continued from page 1*

(GAG) media co-chair.

GAG, based in New York City, is one of several advocacy organizations and publications calling for stricter gun control laws. According to their website, their mission includes "sensible and meaningful gun reform" including a ban on assault weapons and criminal background checks for all gun sales.

"We need everyone involved in gun issues," advises GAG's Roethlein. He calls for ending "the chain of death" he says is created by gun manufacturers and their investors. Gridlock can be broken up at local levels he says.

"We have chapters in 13 locations, including New York, Washington, DC; New Jersey, Provincetown, Los Angeles, and now Orlando," Roethlein says. Gays Against Guns participated in the Jan. 20 Women's March in Washington, DC.

**Education is a key element of Roethlein 's plan.**

"Guns are easier to get than a driver's license," he laments. "Why can't we require training for a device so deadly? he asks. Other than the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence named after James "Jim" Brady, who was permanently disabled as a result of President Ronald Reagan's 1981 assassination attempt, there have few gun education efforts able to sustain a dialogue.

**By Any Means Necessary**

But there are voices on the other end of the argument. More militant organizations like the Pink Panther Movement are calling on the gay community to take matters into their own hands.

"Arm Yourselves," declared Todd Haley II in a written statement. He is the president of the Pink Panther Movement, based in Denver. "...we have opted to let queer folk know that they should be trained and educated on the use of firearms."

Haley says he respects the more anti-gun stance taken by other organizations but believes self-defense is not only the gay community's right but in its best interest.

"Armed queers don't get bashed," he stated. "If a hetero-supremacist wants to kill you, you try and kill them right back...you just be smarter than they are about it."

Founded in 2012, the Pink Panther Movement is a revival of the New York City-based Pink Panther Patrol and similar organizations, which spawned after anti-gay violence reached new heights during the apex of the AIDS epidemic. The original Pink Panthers disbanded after losing a lawsuit with MGM over its name (the studio owns the rights to the Pink Panther movies from the 1960s and 1970s).

Haley said he started the organization after seeing another uptick in violence against the gay community, recalling the direct action tactics of the old Patrol.

"(We) began to see the increasing need for patrol units once again to fill the streets of every major city, both nationally and globally."

Self defense is a high priority for Pink Pistols, a national LGBTQ+ gun group.

The group dates to 2000 when gay author and journalist Jonathan Rauch wrote an article for Salon.com calling for gay people to "set up Pink Pistols task forces," get licensed to carry guns and arm themselves to protect their community.

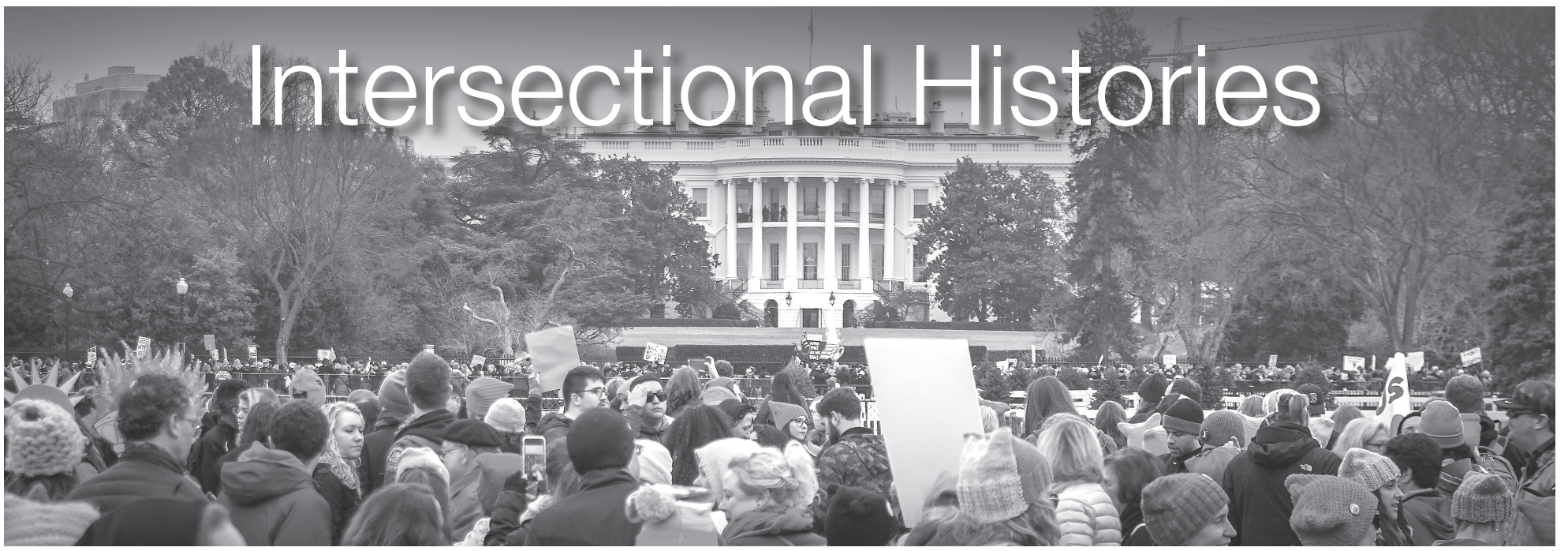
"Not all that many gay people would need to carry guns, as long as gay-bashers couldn't tell which ones did," Rauch wrote.

The Pink Pistols, operating as a loosely organized, national LGBT gun group, has received mostly negative responses from the broader gay community. Some gay community centers have banned the Pink Pistols from using their facilities.

Jonathan Fischer, a 38-year-old TV editor, is a Pink Pistol.

Post-Orlando massacre, he enrolled in a defensive handgun class, according to the LA Times, with a Glock 27 pistol on his hip, wearing a T-shirt with a rainbow-colored AK-47. Then he started a West Hollywood chapter of the Pink Pistols.

"If someone was to try and break into my home, and especially if someone were armed, I don't want to fight back with a kitchen knife," Fischer said. "And I don't think that's extremist or crazy."



# Intersectional Histories

## *Intersectionality can help in the search for an answer.*

## Ally in the Academy

*By Trum Simmons*
*Harrisburg Area Community College*

The Women's Marches in January was a great thing, wasn't it? The solidarity of hundreds of thousands of women - and a lot of men - of every demographic you can think of from across the country was breathtaking. All the women I know who marched returned with a renewed enthusiasm and drive to continue the fight to be recognized and appreciated for who they are, and to receive their due in society.

The march reminded many of the Women's Suffrage Parade that occurred the day before Woodrow Wilson's inauguration in 1913. As the metaphor goes, the 2017 women were standing on the shoulders of their sisters a century ago.

At the same time, there were some rifts among certain segments in February's marches, as when some African American women felt that their white counterparts were not understanding that their fight is in many ways different from that of majority white women.

A *New York Times* story told of an African American woman who posted a piece on Facebook saying that "white allies" should listen more and talk less. In her post, she noted many white women were just beginning to understand racism after the Trump campaign and election.

Black author and activist Bell Hooks urged that women could become better united by "confronting the ways women - through sex, class and race - dominated and exploited other women."

Women's History Month has come a long way since it began in 1982 as Women's History Week (Black History Month started out as a week also). At the same time, many people today are saying we don't need months such as these anymore.

Apparently, they believe we live in an age in which everyone understands that American history is indeed replete with the history of women, blacks, LGBT folks and all the other groups that were not well represented in the history I learned in school back in the golden age of the 1950s.

I think we still need these special months, however, as they consistently open up dialog about difficult and complex issues like the intersections of class, race, ethnicity gender, socioeconomic class, national origin and all those letters along the LGBT spectrum.

A black, queer, working-class woman is not just one thing: She is all of these and more. As I have written before, there is no such thing as a single "gay community," "black community" or "LGBT community." It's more a matter of communities, plural, composed of unique individuals.

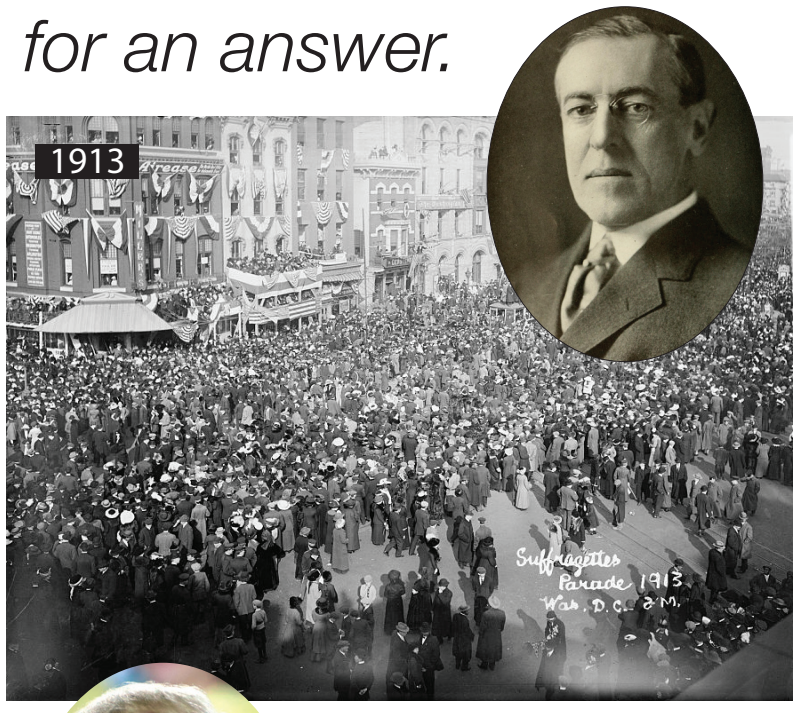
Personal identity is a tricky thing. Susan Faludi, in her recent memoir In the Darkroom, describes her venture into the question of identity resulting from her discovery that her 76-year-old estranged father had undergone sex reassignment surgery. How was she to understand this new person in light of the father she had known all her life?

In the book, Faludi also explores the American search for identity in the decades following World War II. Self-help books like Self-Actualization and Be the Person You Were Meant to Be were best sellers. Thinking about just who I am could lead to an identity crisis.

Well, just who is the person "you were meant to be"? Intersectionality can help in the search for an answer. Who you are is a combination of attributes. In my case, I am a straight white male in my early 70s who was born into a middle-class family. I have many of the attributes of a baby boomer, but that doesn't begin to define who I am in my view.

I certainly own up to having lived a life of straight white male privilege, which once I came to understand, helped me look at the world through new eyes. I first began to understand my white privilege during the civil rights era and in the turmoil of the late 1960s. The second-wave feminist movement of the 1970s helped me see my male privilege. And being involved in LGBT civil rights and anti-poverty social justice continues to help me with the straight, middle-class part.

Faludi reminds us that it was the developmental psychologist Eric Erickson who coined the terms "identity" and "identity crisis." He then wrote that the term "identity" "is a hall of mirrors, as unfathomable as it is all-pervasive." Erickson also noted that a strong selfhood comes from the interplay between self-development and a collective inheritance.



*Women participating in the 2017 march were standing on the shoulders of their sisters a century ago.*

We can't separate our individual identity from our social identity, he said, so it is necessary to synthesize your past and your present. I believe he was talking about what we now call intersectionality, among other things.

Now look where talking about Women's History Month has led us. Women's history is American history, as are the histories of African Americans, Latino/a Americans, working-class and LGBT Americans—many of which overlap. A truly comprehensive American history tells us a lot about our individual and collective search for identity. It also tells us about the need to continue working for social justice.

# TransCentralPA Topics

*By Joanne Carroll*
*president of TransCentralPA*

Years ago, I must admit to being addicted to the soap opera, "Days of our Lives". Many, if not all of you are likely to young to remember the now famous words intoned by the actor, the late MacDonald Carey. Every episode began with this, "Like Sands through an hourglass, these are the days of our lives".

Indeed, the days of our lives rush past us in a near blur, like the sand trickling through the hourglass, because it seems like only a minute ago, I was writing to tell you about the upcoming 2016 Keystone Conference.

Well March is upon us, and we are up to our collective eyebrows getting ready for our Ninth Annual Keystone Conference taking place once again at the Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey on March 22-26, 2017.

As in past conferences, we are prepared to greet attendees from around the world, because amazingly, what began as a Pennsylvania only event, it has now reached international status within the transgender community.

Last year 700 persons attended, hailing from across the USA, most of Canada, and 12 foreign countries. Our website continues to garner international attention as well, and is now at nearly 60,000 visits from 145 countries. Who would have imagined that China would account for nearly 500 of those visits, or that anyone from Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan, or Iran would visit the website.

If the attendance does not seem like a big deal to you, perhaps you should consider a couple of facts. This is the largest, reoccurring conference to take place in Harrisburg in any given year. The economic impact to the community is estimated at between one-half and three quarters of a million dollars each year.

The conference annually features workshops and seminars on a wide range of topics affecting the transgender community. Nationally known figures from within the trans-community as well as representatives of a variety of governmental agencies have been called on as Keynote speakers. What sets us apart is our deliberate effort to showcase our community as well as allow attendees to experience life beyond the confines of their daily lives. Over 20 restaurants on the "Restaurant Row" in Harrisburg serve as hosts for a number of excursions.

There are opportunities for anyone wishing to be supportive to the cause as well. On Thursday, March 23, 2017, TransCentralPA and the Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey Hotel will serve as hosts for the monthly mixer of the Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. Tickets are available to attend the various meal functions including the Gala Banquet and Dance, slated for Saturday evening, March 25, 2017 at the Sheraton. For ticketing information, please write to info@keystone-conference.org

# Youth Empowerment Program Established

Valley Youth House and Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center recently hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for their LGBT youth center, Project SILK Lehigh Valley.

The program is a collaborative program funded by a $250,000 partnership grant from the HIV Prevention & Care Project to launch a professionally-staffed LGBT youth empowerment program in Allentown, PA.

The program provides a recreation-based safe space model every-day after school for LGBT youth, with a specific goal of reaching LGBT youth of color for HIV intervention purposes. The program is housed in 2,000 square feet of dedicated program space at Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center, in the previously unoccupied first floor, which is now solely dedicated to LGBT youth programs.

This unique partnership builds on the expertise of Valley Youth House in providing emergency interventions and youth empowerment programs and the expertise of Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center in providing LGBT health programs and supportive services to the LGBT community. It also fills an unmet need in the Lehigh Valley to provide professionally-staffed direct, daily support outside of school for LGBT youth in the region.

Andrew Palomo, Valley Youth House Research & Evaluation Coordinator and Program Supervisor, said, "This collaborative effort remains true to Valley Youth House's mission of being inclusive by providing services to all youth and will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the LGBTQIA community in our area."

Adrian Shanker, Executive Director of Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center, commented, "Addressing the needs of LGBT youth in our community is critical to our mission of supporting the local LGBT community. Supporting LGBT youth in their leadership and identity development and providing LGBT health and wellness for LGBT youth makes us proud to partner with Valley Youth House on this exciting program."

Valley Youth House partners with thousands of individuals each year to build a solid foundation for young people and their families. Services offered include street outreach, housing, counseling, skills training, health, prevention, and intervention services.

Campus Pride is highlighting anti-LGBT policies of dozens of colleges and universities, the group says. "These are discriminatory policies the National Collegiate Athletic Association fully accepts," a news release claims.

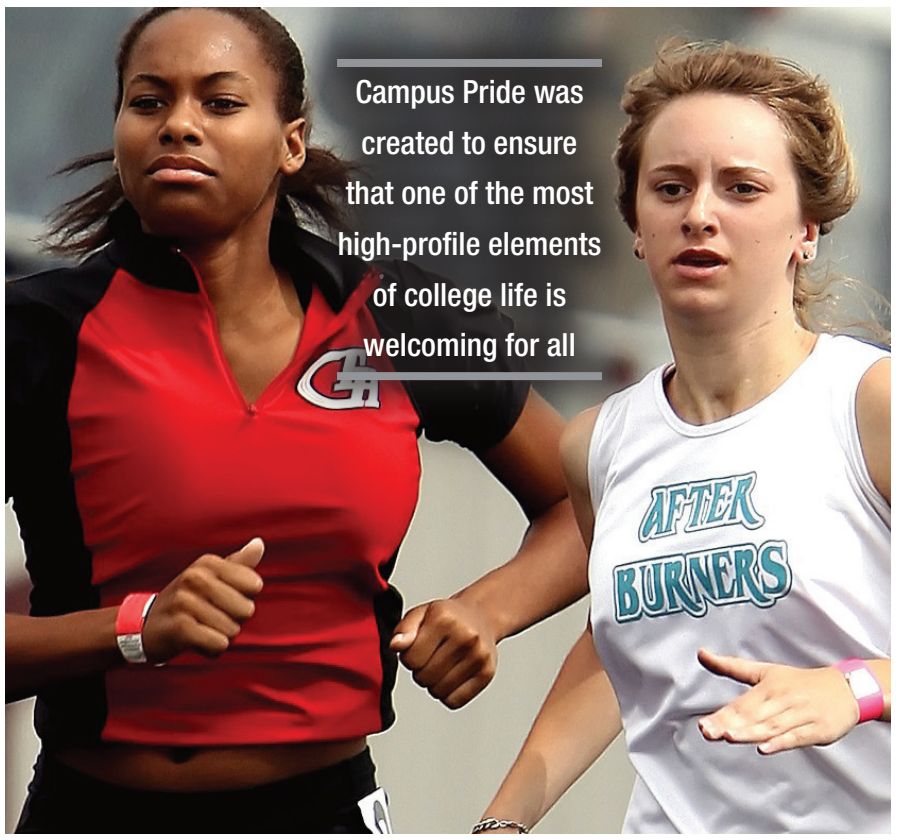
Led by Shane Windmeyer, Campus Pride has both created and enhanced resources to educate non-LGBT people in sports — and inspire LGBT athletes and coaches — to ensure that one of the most high-profile elements of college life is welcoming for all.

Based in Charlotte, North Carolina, Windmeyer and Campus Pride have been active in fight against that state's anti-gay HB2 and the negative repercussions the bill has brought to the entire state.

Last year, Campus Pride focused on five initiatives:

- Implemented three LGBTQ Sports Inclusion Summits in the South, hosted on the campuses of Virginia State University, Alabama A&M University and North Carolina Central University.
- Expanded outreach and support with the Campus Pride Sports Index which lists 24 campuses with LGBT-inclusive sports spaces
- With Soulforce brought attention to the harms of Title IX religious exemptions
- Worked against North Carolina's HB2 specifically in regard to sporting events choosing to boycott the state
- Attended NCAA Common Ground Conference

*Info: campuspride.org*



# Stonewall Redux?

*By Andy Humm, Gay City News*

LGBT people have protested and celebrated outside the Stonewall since the Rebellion in 1969. But on Saturday, February 4, in sub-freezing temperatures, thousands filled the streets of Stonewall Place to condemn President Donald Trump's ban on travel from seven Muslim-majority nations — standing up for Islamic people within and outside the community who have been singled out for persecution by the new administration.

"LGBTQ people have been fighting oppression for time immemorial," said out gay Chelsea City Councilmember Corey Johnson, one of the lead organizers of the protest endorsed by more than 60 groups and scores of elected officials, "so when we see an administration come after vulnerable communities, we feel it deeply and personally. We are declaring with one voice that we are in this together."

Photo by Gay City News

Photo by Margaret Bryer

## LGBT community center coalition

*By Louie Marven*
*Executive Director*

# Resisting Islamophobia as an LGBT community

There's a lot of talk about "the resistance" these days.

If you haven't been paying attention to the news, or if "the resistance" only exists in my carefully-curated social media bubble that happens to be very different than yours, this is the language that is commonly used to name the refusal to accept Trumpism.

Sometimes it takes the form of expressing to their elected officials that they would like the official to take action against a Cabinet appointment or a piece of legislation. Sometimes it means making a visual representation of protest through showing up at rally or posting a sign with a welcoming message to immigrants and refugees at one's home.

**it does not help our cause to accept sensationalized caricatures**

It can also mean resisting the messages of division that are being sown at a very high level.

Here's a message that I believe LGBT people should actively resist: that immigrants and refugees from Muslim-majority countries are somehow inherently dangerous to LGBT communities.

This is not a new message, but it's gaining in impact as right-wing movements in the United States and Western Europe are co-opting the language of progressive causes to divide political opposition.

As Amanda Erickson observes in her article "Trump's support of gays is right out of the European far-right playbook" (Washington Post, Feb. 1, 2017), "In France, the Netherlands and Germany, right-wing leaders have embraced causes such as gay rights and feminism. Islam, they argue, is a threat to the very people protected by these social movements."

Of course, these are shallow readings of gay rights and feminism, and what "support" could mean for LGBT communities. "Embrace" may be too strong a word. But the right-wing leaders Erickson refers to are doing enough to soften their traditionally homophobic tones to convince some people that their agendas aren't so bad for LGBT and women's rights, and that in fact Islam represents a threat to the progressive gains that have been made for LGBT people and women.

One way we can resist these messages is to remember that LGBT people and immigrants are not two discrete categories: LGBT people are immigrants, and immigrants are LGBT people. Immigration equality is LGBT equality, and LGBT equality is immigration equality.

Another way is to openly talk about Islamophobia when we see it showing up in LGBT spaces. Sometimes these messages of division can be effective because they go unnoticed.

As a recovering evangelical Christian myself, I have what I like to believe is a healthy skepticism toward organized religion. But my work with many people from various faith communities also tells me that it does not help our cause to accept sensationalized caricatures of anyone, particularly those in need.

IT'S HERE FOR 2017: LGBT GUIDE
CENTRAL PA'S COMPLETE LGBT DIRECTORY

# Don't Just Stick with Printed Books

THE | DAUPHIN COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
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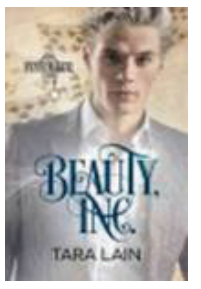
## book reviews

*By Yvonne Carmicheal*
*Collection Management Administrator*
*Dauphin County Library System*
*www.dcls.org*

The Library offers titles in e-book, or e-audio, and yes, print too. Also our Winter Reading Club continues through the end of March 2017; sign up online at dcls.org or at any branch to earn prizes for reading, listening and watching. We also have video games and e-magazines! DVDs rent for free and you can stream movies, music and TV shows with your library card!

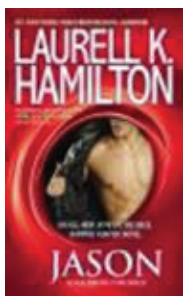
***The Art of the Deal,*** by R. B. Stretke
Sean Robbins's life rarely goes as plan, but he's determined to make his own way. But when he learns why he lost out on an internship with Chicago's leading lawyer, Coleman West, he tries to remain stoic. Still whenever he runs into West, he isn't afraid to snub him. So when Sean gets on an elevator and can't avoid running into him, the instant chemistry surprises him. Sean and Coleman could be happy together, but first they must overcome everything that stands in their way.

***Black Deutschland,***
by Darryl Pinckney
"Jed--young, gay, black, out of rehab and out of prospects in his hometown of Chicago--flees to the city of his fantasies, a museum of modernism and decadence: Berlin. An intoxicating, provocative novel of appetite, identity, and self-construction, Darryl Pinckney's Black Deutschland tells the story of an outsider, trapped between a painful past and a ten-ebrous future, in Europe's brightest and darkest city"-- Provided by publisher.




***Beauty Inc.***, by Tara Lain
A manipulative family seems to stand in the way of happiness for Chemist Robert "Belle" Belleterre to the charismatic, Magnus Strong, CEO of Beauty, Inc.

***A Kind of Justice,*** by Renee James
Bobbi Logan, a statuesque transgender woman, has become one of Chicago's most celebrated hair stylists. Just as she's enjoying the success, her life falls apart. Her business nearly fails, her ex-wife needs help facing a tragedy, and a detective is determined to convict her of a five-year-old murder.




***Jason***, by Laurell K. Hamilton
Anita Blake, who is having relationship problems with her female lover, has an unforgettable experience when she agrees to help her good friend, werewolf Jason Schuyler, handle his bisexual lover.

# classifieds

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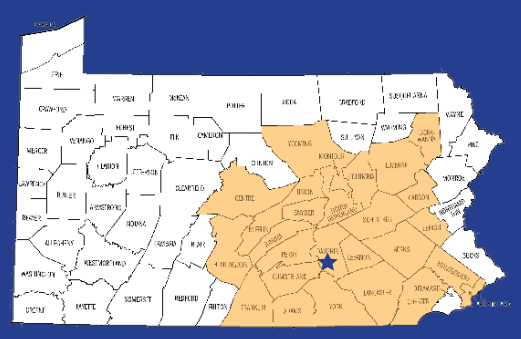
PRIDE FESTIVALS TODAY ARE THE STATE FAIRS AND PARISH PICNICS OF THE LGBT COMMUNITY. THEY'RE A CHANCE FOR PEOPLE FROM ACROSS THE COMMUNITY AND FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE TO GET TOGETHER AND HAVE A GOOD TIME.

Pride Festival of Central PA has grown substantially in the intervening 25 years and is now the largest Pride celebration in central Pennsylvania. In 2016, Harrisburg welcomed nearly 5,000 visitors to the festival.



**Last year's Pride Festival of Central PA attendees came from 28 PA counties and 14 states!**

## CENTRAL PA PRIDE GUIDE:

Guide booklets are inserted in July/Aug CV and also distributed to each festival attendee on July 29

Full Page (5.25" x 8.5")
Half Page (5.25" x 4.25")
Quarter Page (2.5" x 4.25")

SPACE RESERVATION DEADLINE: **May 26**
COPY DEADLINE: **June 2**

1992 25 YEARS PROUD 2017
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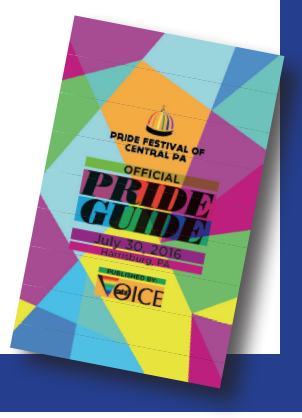


# Generate results for your business

Engage the LGBT market in a meaningful way. Targeted outreach in the right channels is still by and large much more cost effective in local LGBT media than in the mainstream media channels.

Everyone deserves a good return on investment, and *Central Voice* wants businessess to experience success in the LGBT market. Plenty of companies do this well already. These are the companies who regularly advertise in local and national LGBT publications and develop strong relationships with LGBT media, participate in LGBT-focused events, and support causes and organizations important to the LGBT community.

## also!

### LANCASTER PRIDE GUIDE:

Guide appears in May/June edition of CV and also distributed to festival attendees.
(Date to be announced)

SPACE RESERVATION DEADLINE: **March 31**
COPY DEADLINE: **April 7**

### YORK EQUALITY FEST GUIDE:

Guide appears in July/Aug. edition of CV and also distributed to festival attendees.
(Date to be announced)

SPACE RESERVATION DEADLINE: **May 26**
COPY DEADLINE: **June 2**

central VOICE

**PRIDE GUIDES are published in association with Pride organizers and will contain all the vital information festival-goers want such as the festival map, vendor listing and entertainment schedules.**

**Contact Dave Brown**
**davebrown@pressandjournal.com**
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